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# HISTORY OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH IN THE GRIDLEY, CALIFORNIA AREA

Compiled by  
The Reunion Committee  
June 1980

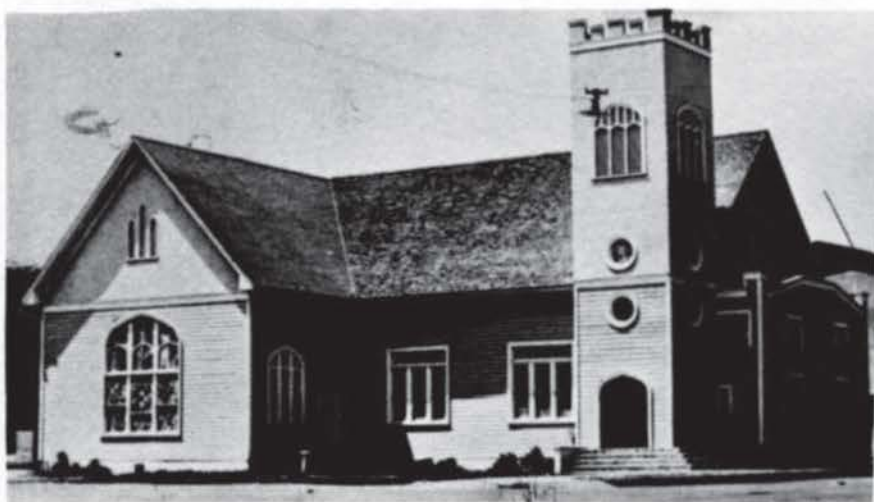
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Social Hall 1909



Chapel at Sycamore & Vermont St. 1912



Gridley Stake Center April 1, 1951

## PREFACE

About two years ago, Pierce Hawley and his wife, Isabelle, returned from Los Angeles where they had attended a ward reunion in their home ward in Mar Vista. Brother Hawley's enthusiasm for this experience sparked a real interest in me as the Bishop of the Gridley First Ward to see us have this type of experience in an area with as much history as Gridley.

It took a little time for the idea to develop. It finally fit well into place during the 45th year of the Gridley Ward and as part of the Church's Sesquicentennial Celebration. By now, the basic plan had been laid down and Brother Hawley had been called as the specialist to make it become a reality. He carefully chose members of a committee who were to spend countless hours in preparation of the materials needed to make the event significant.

The committee was composed of twelve members. They have all served faithfully and have continued right down to the present in order to complete their assignment. The members of the committee are Charlotte Davis, Ned Davis, Sharon Ethington, Robert Fife, June Hagberg, Richard McDowell, Joe McGie, Chris Schneider, Eva Thorpe, Janice Thorpe, and Reva Tupen as well as Pierce Hawley.

The committee quickly caught the vision of what a significant event this could be and have worked very hard in order to make this vision come to pass. Without their tireless efforts, the enterprise would have been impossible. We want to express our sincere thanks to Brother Hawley and his committee.

The committee identified many needs and chose countless numbers of helpers to take care of these assignments. We want to express our appreciation to these people also. They have helped and continue to help to make this a successful weekend.

Most of all, we want to thank those who have caught the vision of the reunion and have made the effort to come and enjoy the reunion with us. Certainly, it would not have been worth the work, if we had not had a big group to enjoy it. We anticipate that many people will have the opportunity to visit with old friends and relatives who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to do so. We hope to make it a "little bit of Heaven" as we enjoy this reunion with old friends.

I think that it is a great tribute to the committee that they have tried at all times to make this booklet and the reunion in general as authentic and significant historically as possible. We trust that we might all have our genealogical interests activated as we participate in this event.

Bishop Michael R. Henry  
Gridley First Ward

## DEDICATION

We would like to dedicate this "work of love" to the memory of those courageous, stalwart, and faithful saints who not only settled in Gridley but left us a legacy of both spiritual and physical strength upon which the rest of us have built our lives.



## 1980 REUNION AND HISTORY COMMITTEE



**Back row - Chris Schnieder, Richard McDowell, Robert Fife, Joe McGie, Chairman Pierce Hawley, Ned Davis, Charlotte Davis. Front Row - Reva Tupin, Janice Thorpe, June Hagberg, Eva Mae Thorpe, Sharon Ethington.**

We wish to thank all of you who shared your pictures and wrote your family histories and made them available for this publication. We are sorry that all families did not take advantage of this opportunity to share their histories.

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Aunt Caroline Hepworth - 100 year Birthday - April 15, 1980

## EARLY HISTORY OF GRIDLEY

From the date of its beginning, 1870, until 1906 the little town of Gridley was surrounded by huge fields of grain - wheat, oats, and barley. There was no irrigation and thus no diversified farming.

The town itself, a speck on the map of California, numbering less than 2000 souls, was first made possible by the arrival of the Oregon and California Railroad - later the Western Pacific and now the Southern Pacific. Gridley is located near the southern boundary of Butte County, adjacent to Sutter County, 70 miles north of the state capital, Sacramento. The railroad established a station there in the early 1870's. The right-of-way of the railroad, running north and south, ran through the city's limits. Gridley was incorporated in 1906.

In August of 1902, a group of far-sighted men had proposed a canal system that would tap the Feather River and flow westward toward Gridley to irrigate the dry farms. This would change the emphasis from grain farming to diversified farming dependent on irrigation. Crops such as alfalfa, clover, beans, beets, orchards of fruits and nuts could thus be grown on much smaller acreages for the support of farm families.

By June 9, 1905, the Butte County Canal Company, after starting to dig on April 4, 1904, had completed fourteen miles of main canal from the Hazelbusch headgates and weir on the Feather River northeast of Gridley at a cost of \$200,000.

Between 1902 and 1904, agents for the canal company and the California Irrigated Land Company had signed up contracts with farmers around Gridley to supply irrigation water for lands that previously had been "dry-farmed."

The land company subdivided the lands formerly planted to large tracts of grain into "colonies," with tracts of irrigated farms in acreages of ten, twenty or forty acres. The emphasis on crops changed from raising grain to raising such irrigated crops as fruit, alfalfa and row crops. Pastures of clover also made possible a thriving dairy industry.

The Oroville Mercury, in April 1904, announced in most jubilant fashion the following predictions resulting from the opening of south Butte County's lands to irrigation:

"The completion of the Butte County Canal will bring in a large population of small farmers who do so much to add to the wealth of a community. In a few years we will see

Gridley and Biggs (five miles north of Gridley) increase 500 percent in population. With water in quantity and its fertile soil, southwestern Butte County and eastern Sutter will become one of the richest sections in the world."

The California Irrigated Land Company advertised throughout the intermountain country of Nevada, Idaho and Utah and throughout the middle west on the subject, "The Place Where Crops Never Fail," meaning the irrigated lands around Gridley.

On June 9, 1905 the canal project was completed and water was turned into the canal system out of the Feather River three miles east of Gridley. Hence the foundation was laid for the coming of the Mormons, who were skilled in farming irrigated lands.

With the completion of the main canal and its three main laterals near Gridley, plus the dissemination of all the promotional materials sent far and wide, it is no wonder that the Butte County Canal Company's irrigable lands became the object of attention for many visitors seeking to settle in the Gridley area.

The Gridley Herald in its April 13, 1906 issue, stated that a group of Mormons from Utah had arrived to look over the irrigated lands of Gridley. The editor stated that the visitors, who were farmers, were favorably impressed with what they saw.

In Utah these farmers had paid \$25 per acre for a water right plus \$2.50 per acre rental charge per acre per year. In Gridley they found that water cost just \$1.00 per acre. In addition, the climate was much more temperate than that of the intermountain region, making the California farms suited for a much wider diversification of crops than the Mormons had available to them in their homes of origin.

It was from this interest in irrigated farming at moderate costs that led to the migration of many Mormon farmers and their families from Utah, Idaho, Arizona, Nevada and other states to the Gridley area.

Hyrum Dewsnup had come to Gridley in the early autumn of 1906, hoping to find a more salubrious climate to improve his health. The diversity of crops including fruits, nuts, vines, row crops and pastures impressed him immensely. He returned to his Idaho home to show his family and fellow Mormons the samples of farm produce from the Gridley region.

So it was that on November 22, 1906, Latter-Day Saints arrived in Gridley from the Rexburg, Idaho area. These church members



were Hyrum Dewsnap, Charles French, Samuel Smith, O.T. Shirley, Henry Losser, Mathew White, W. Simmons, George Cole, his wife, Julia, and their children Louis, James, Elizabeth and Arthur.

An agent of the California Irrigated Land Company, a Mr. Frieling, accompanied this group to Gridley. His company was interested in the sale of lands near Gridley to these new arrivals in farming tracts of irrigated farms ten to forty acres in extent.

Through this land company agent, the group took an option on all of the land in Colonies No. 4 and No. 7, which made up a total of 722 acres. Individuals in this first contingent of Mormon settlers bought farms located south

and southwest of Gridley and began practicing diversified farming. The parcels not taken up by these first settlers were soon sold to other Latter-Day Saint families who began to arrive shortly afterward.

The March 1, 1907 issue of the Gridley Herald printed the following item: "Several carloads of household goods, stock and tools of the Idaho colonists arrived on the rails last week and the Idaho crowd now numbers 150 people. Joseph Cameron has completed his home and Monday moved into it." Throughout the year of 1907, the Gridley Herald regularly announced the arrival of Mormons, either to look things over or to settle in the colonies. (They are mentioned by name, not by religion.)

### EARLY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

The George Cole family, which had come to Gridley with the first group of colonists on Nov. 22, 1906, had moved into a house on Kentucky St. in Gridley. It was in this house that the Latter-Day Saints held their first Sacrament Meeting Dec. 10, 1906. It being the home of George Cole, he presided. Meeting was opened with singing, prayer and another song. The sacrament was administered and passed. The rest of the time was devoted to testimony bearing. It was a spiritual meeting and greatly enjoyed by those present. The group consisted of George Cole, his wife, Julia, his children, Louis, James, Elizabeth and Arthur, C.L. French and his son Vandy, Mathew White and his wife, O.T. Shirley and W. Simmons. Except for short periods of flu and diphtheria epidemics, Sacrament Meeting by the Latter-Day Saints have been held in the Gridley area continuously from 1906 to the present day.

About the first of January (1907) the meeting place was changed to the home of Samuel Smith since the Cole family was expecting the stork which arrived Jan. 19th 1907 and left twins.

On Feb. 5th, Joseph E. Robinson, California Mission President, made a visit, at the suggestion of the First Presidency of the Church, and met with the Saints. The purpose of this visit was to look the situation over and make a report.

President Robinson returned Feb. 23rd with Elder Thompson and Elder Grant. Sunday, Feb. 24th, meeting was held in the Gridley Opera House on Ohio Street, now occupied by the Gridley Furniture Store, and the Gridley

Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was organized. George Cole was sustained as president of the new branch with J. Frank Dewsnap as first counselor and Charles W. Larsen as second counselor.

Several of the first Mormon families coming to Gridley rented houses inside or near Gridley before selecting their farms in the colonies, where they built their permanent homes. Many of these homes in the colonies are still occupied today, seventy-two years later, often by the descendants of those colonists of 1907.

Some families built tent platforms with wooden sides to make the tents weatherproof through the winter. These temporary homes were placed under oak trees on the newly purchased farms.

In March of 1907, after heavy rains, the Biggs and Gridley areas were flooded with overflow water from the Feather River. The Mormon colonists who were living temporarily in houses in Gridley were inconvenienced by the waters invading their homes along with the rest of the residents of Gridley.

Because the flood waters backed up against the east side of the raised railroad right-of-way that passed through Gridley, the flood was most severe on the east side of the right-of-way, affecting the homes on East Hazel and Washington Streets. The railroad tracks north of Gridley were washed out. This permitted the waters to rush through, flooding the main business sections of both Gridley and Biggs. In Gridley, a lake was created in the Veatch tract and Parkside addition north and southwest of the city's limits.

In 1907, the Branch was visited by Apostle



Richards and President Joseph F. Smith. The visitations of the church president and the apostle were extremely helpful in raising the morale of the colonists who felt isolated from their fellow religionists in Idaho, Utah and Arizona.

Sunday School, Relief Society and probably M.I.A. were organized Nov. 17, 1907. Those sustained in leadership positions in these auxiliary organizations were: George W. Tolley, Sunday School Superintendent with M. Hansen and Charles W. Larson as counselors, Lillis Minerva Cameron, Relief Society President with Emily Dewsnap and Julia Cole as counselors, Caroline Allstrom, Y.W.M.I.A. President with Laura Dewsnap (now Richins) and Almira Peal as counselors. (At this time we are unable to determine the Y.M.M.I.A. presidency.)

The Primary was not organized until 1909. Lydia Barrow was the first president. (The first Primary president in northern California.)

Church services continued to be held in the Gridley Opera House during 1907 and 1908. The building was rented and Sunday School, Sacrament Meeting and M.I.A. were held there on Sunday. It was not a good place to meet but the best available.

At the close of the year, 1908, the Branch had grown in numbers until there were close to 500 Saints. In addition to those who settled on farms in what was known as Colony 4, many of the Latter-Day Saints settled in or just outside Gridley. One example of this was the Albert Taylor Family. Albert Taylor owned a large general store in the building that still stands on the southwest corner of Hazel and Vermont Streets, immediately north of the Church chapel that was built on the corner of Sycamore and Vermont Streets. Other members also had business interests in town. The Branch was growing fast and the people felt the need to have a building of their own.

Some contention arose among the Saints on the building site of the church. A portion of the membership wanted the church building erected in the Colony (Colony 4). Others wanted to build the church inside the city limits of Gridley. This was the cause of considerable ill feeling among some of the Saints.

It was finally decided to build the church inside the city limits and a hall (Social Hall) out in Colony 4. Because the Gridley Opera House was such a poor place for church meetings, it was decided to build the hall as soon as possible in order to have a place in which to hold church services.

About twenty acres was acquired and the Social Hall was built near the center of the tract, between Dewsnap and French Avenues. What is now Social Hall Road was used for access. Seven acres to the north of the building and eight acres to the south were later sold to Samuel A. Barrow.

During the spring and early summer of 1909, services were held under the big oak trees on the site of the building. Planks were used for seating.

George W. Tolley, then Branch President, a carpenter and contractor, was in charge of construction and labor was donated by the Saints. When the building was partly finished, meetings were held in the hall, the first one being on Sunday, July 4, 1909.

It was one large room with curtains hung from wires that could be used to divide it into classrooms. Heat was supplied by a wood burning stove in the middle of the room. This is reputed to be the first Church owned building in all of California.

The church in town was built on the north west corner of Sycamore and Vermont Streets. George W. Tolley was in charge of the construction of this building also. It was completed in 1912.

Funds for the new chapel were raised by the members, plus the liberal assistance of friendly business people and citizens of Gridley. Many members donated labor. The total cost of construction amounted to \$12,000. The Church headquarters in Utah, as was the custom, paid one half of the cost.

This structure was built to seat 1000 persons. In 1912, this was the largest house of worship belonging to the Latter-Day Saints west of Salt Lake City. The Gridley Branch made up the largest group of members of any branch of Latter-Day Saints in the extreme west.

The building's main entrance faced south on Sycamore Street. Sidewalks along the south and north walls led to the other two entrances into the west wing. A great-used drinking fountain was erected at the entrance to the west wing, adjacent to the lawn and the church sidewalk.

The huge chapel was built in the shape of a "T". The main congregation faced the west wall and pulpit from their seats in the stem of the "T". The top of the "T" contained the south and north wings for extra seating at conference time. On these occasions, huge throngs gathered to hear the Church General Authorities, Mission President and visiting missionaries in attendance. The platform



against the west wall of the top of the "T" seated the presiding officers, the guest speakers and recording clerk. The choir was often seated as a group at the north end of the platform, facing the congregation diagonally from the front of the north wing.

The central aisle, leading from the front entrance cloakroom, was laid out from east to west to the platform and the pulpit. It was carpeted and terminated at the Sacrament table.

The benches or pews in the church were of massive construction in solid oak. The walls of the church were made of stamped metal with the fleur-de-lis pattern common in the metal walls of public buildings of that era.

A huge coal or wood burning stove in the central part of the church warmed the congregation - especially those clustered in close proximity to this source of heat in a sometimes chilly church.

At the time of the construction of the Mormon chapel in 1912, the congregation had grown from the original colonists of 1906 to between six and seven hundred members. Newcomers, members of the church, were continuing to arrive from Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Canada, Mexico and further east.

The Latter-Day Saints of that period, just as now and just as in the days of the early Utah pioneers, believed in wholesome recreational activities. Hence, the celebration of Pioneer Day on the 24th of July, the day that Brigham Young and the Mormon pioneers first looked down on the great valley of the Great Salt Lake from a gap in the Wasatch Range as they came westward - and Brigham Young stated, "This is the place," - has always been an annual event in the social program of the Mormon Church.

Although the Gridley Mormon colonists observed their first Pioneer Day at the Wickman ranch, in successive years the momentous day was celebrated at the Social Hall.

Contests of all kinds were held in the yard under the oak trees. Youth of all ages, from children to teen-agers and past, enjoyed all kinds of races - sack races, three-legged races and wheel-barrow races. Sprints, broad and high jumping and relays were also popular. Declamations, recitations and dramatic productions were offered. A dance was usually held in the evening.

From the July 25th, 1935 Sacramento Bee: "When Gridley Mormons Observed Pioneer Day". "Members of the Mormon faith to the

number of several thousand from Gridley, Oroville, Yuba City, Nevada City, Corning and Colusa assembled in Gridley yesterday to observe Pioneer Day, the Eighty-eighth anniversary of the arrival of the Mormons in the Great Salt Lake Valley of Utah. A parade with entries reminiscent of the equipment and types of people who made the overland trek from the Missouri River to Salt Lake was a feature. The pictures show some of the participants in that and the sham battle that climaxed the parade." The pictures show covered wagons drawn in a circle in the Gridley Ball Park, as sometimes were those of the participants' forebears as a means of repelling Indian attacks. The mounted Indians are seen circling the wagons during the sham battle. Another picture shows Misses Alice and LaPriel Turnbaugh of Gridley, shown in their pioneer costumes as they appeared in the parade. Also shown is one of the handcarts similar to those used by some of the Mormon immigrants to transport their property across the plains.

An article appeared in the Gridley Herald concerning the Pioneer Day Celebration on July 24th, 1936 entitled "Pioneer Day Celebration Decided Success; Hundreds Witness Parade, Pageant". The article goes on as follows: "The second annual Pioneer Day celebration by the Gridley Stake, Latter Day Saints church, is an event of the past and the sponsors are being congratulated on the success of the occasion.

The parade which extended for a number of blocks was appropriate to the occasion, with a dozen covered wagons, a handcart section, pioneers in 1847 garb riding in wagons, pushing handcarts or "in line".

Several entries were especially good. Dimon Stewart as an Indian squaw probably received the most attention. His father, R.E. Stewart, scored as a bearded pioneer with the handcart division.

The pageant in the ball park was witnessed by a crowd which filled the grandstand to capacity. The spectacle was divided into two parts. Old-time music was made audible to the spectators by the Ambrose loud speaker. A brief history of the famous Mormon trek of 1847 was also given by the announcer.

Hundreds crowded the sports program at the pool in the afternoon. Various formations were effected by the swimmers, chief among which were the Red Cross emblem and the letter "M" for Mormon Pioneer. In addition there were swimming and diving exhibitions and contests, directed by Mrs. Etta Todd. The



water program was held in conjunction with the Red Cross swimming school and pins were awarded beginners and swimmers successfully passing tests required.

The celebration concluded in the evening with a dance at Social Hall, well attended.

Editor's Note - The celebration, as celebrations go, was quite successful. Considerable effort and time was required to get together the wagons, hand carts, costumes and other features necessary to supply the parade color. Individuals and committees taxed muscle and brain to make the celebration the decided success that it was. However, with Gridley wards alone having a congregation estimated at more than 1000, it seems that the Latter Day Saint people have an opportunity on Pioneer Day to enlarge features of the event to a point that the celebration would be an outstanding event in the state, one that would attract spectators from near and far. Hundreds should have been in the parade, instead of scores. It has been suggested by the businessmen themselves that it would be a splendid idea to close business establishments for two hours and the community in general either take part in the parade or get on the sidelines. Co-operation between the Latter Day Saint people and the community should make the 1937 celebration a much larger spectacle.

Before the erection of the church in town, church members living in town had to make their way on foot or by horse and buggy to the Social Hall to attend church services - either Sacrament meeting or meetings of the auxiliaries of the Church. The roads were muddy, often nearly impassable. In summer, rutted and dusty roads had to be negotiated in order to reach services at the Social Hall. After its erection, the situation was reversed. Those living in the outlying area had the same problem attending meetings at the Vermont and Sycamore location. Hence a movement was initiated to organize a second Sunday School and Relief Society and meetings were held at both locations but everyone attended Sacrament Meeting in the church in town.

A Sunday School had also been organized in Biggs. They met in a rented building but it was discontinued by 1913.

January 1, 1920 the Liberty Branch was organized as a separate entity. Joseph W. McMurrin, President of the California Mission presided. Joseph Davis was sustained as Branch President with J. Frank Dewsnap and Ray E. Stewart as his counselors.

The name "Liberty" was proposed by Brother Frank A. Little of the Colony group as the name of the new branch and this was approved. The Branch consisted of those meeting in the Social Hall and it was retained as their meeting place.

During the presidency of Joseph Davis, the Social Hall was remodeled. At the east end a basement with a stage immediately above it was constructed. The concrete for the basement was not waterproof, however, and each winter water would seep into the basement, rendering it unuseable. On the west end, rest rooms were added. The basement was divided into four class rooms with sliding doors. These improvements made the hall much more practical and convenient.

The chapel in town was also remodeled. During the presidency of James M. Pryde, major changes were made. The huge one-room chapel was divided to create a smaller chapel and a recreation hall (cultural hall). Thus provision was made for social dances, parties, banquets, etc. Also, a curtained stage was built at the north end of this recreation hall with side wings, dressing rooms and lavatories. Many dramatic productions were offered through these facilities. A completely equipped kitchen below the stage made provision for food preparation for banquets. In the chapel portion, a balcony and upstairs class rooms were constructed. Other changes were included and minor remodeling occurred from time to time but it was not until the early 1920's that a baptismal font was constructed.

Following the alteration of the big Gridley chapel in 1923, church services continued as usual in the remodeled smaller chapel. Because of this alteration in the building, accommodations for an original congregation of 1,000 persons was considerably curtailed. There had been much soul-searching among the members of the congregation at the time when plans for walling off the west portion of the building to serve as a recreation hall were discussed, with much opposition from many of the older, more conservative members.



# NAMES OF ALL L.D.S. WHO LIVED IN GRIDLEY PRIOR TO 1916

---- Allstrom

John Adams

George Asay

Gordon Asbury

Samuel A. Barrow

Simon Beck

Hugh Black

Charles Bodily

Frank Bodily

John Borrowman

Joseph Cameron

Grover Cameron

Paul Carlin

George Catmul

Samuel Cherry

John Chesley

Arthur Chism

Sylvester Coe

George Cole

William J. Cole

Delia Curtis

James Davis

Joseph Davis

Ernest Dewsnap

Frank Dewsnap

Hyrum Dewsnap

Jemima Durfee

Reece Evans

William Farr

Amanda Floor

George Fenn

Marion Francis

Vilate Francis

Charles French

August Gattiker

Jacob Gattiker

Daniel Hendrix

Joe Hansen

Simon Hansen

Clara Howard

Bert Janes

Albert Johnson

Benjamin F. Johnson, Jr.

Benjamin F. Johnson, Sr.

H.S. Johnson

Jed Johnson

Lester Johnson

Mark Johnson

Sarah Johnson

Seth Johnson

William H. Johns

William H. Jones

Joseph Justeson

J. William Kofford

Samuel G. Lake

Chris Larsen

George Larsen

Oriah Leigh

Frank A. Little

Fred Little

Ray Little

George Losser

Henry Losser

James L. Marler

James E. McGie

George Miller

James M. Nelson

John T. Nielson

Archie Pettit

William Price

James M. Pryde

Ras Rasmussen

Melvin Richins

Charles C. Sannar

Jacob Schneider

Thomas Schow

Walter Scott

William C. Scott

Charles C. Shepperd

Clyde Shepperd

Crum Sheppard

Other T. Shirley

J.H. Sill

Waco Simmons

Charlie Smith

David L. Smith

Samuel Smith

Samuel J. Smith

Jacob Snyder

Chris Sorenson

Niels C. Sorenson

Ray E. Stewart

Charles Swan

Magnus Swan

Albert Taylor

Frank Terry

Otis L. Terry

Thomas Terry, Jr.

Thomas Terry, Sr.

James Thompson

Henry M. Todd

George W. Tolley

Samuel Tolley

J. B. Walker

Frank Webb

George Webster

----West

Adrian Wilcox

Frank Wilcox

Owen Wilcox

Joseph C. Williams

Mathew White

William Woolsey

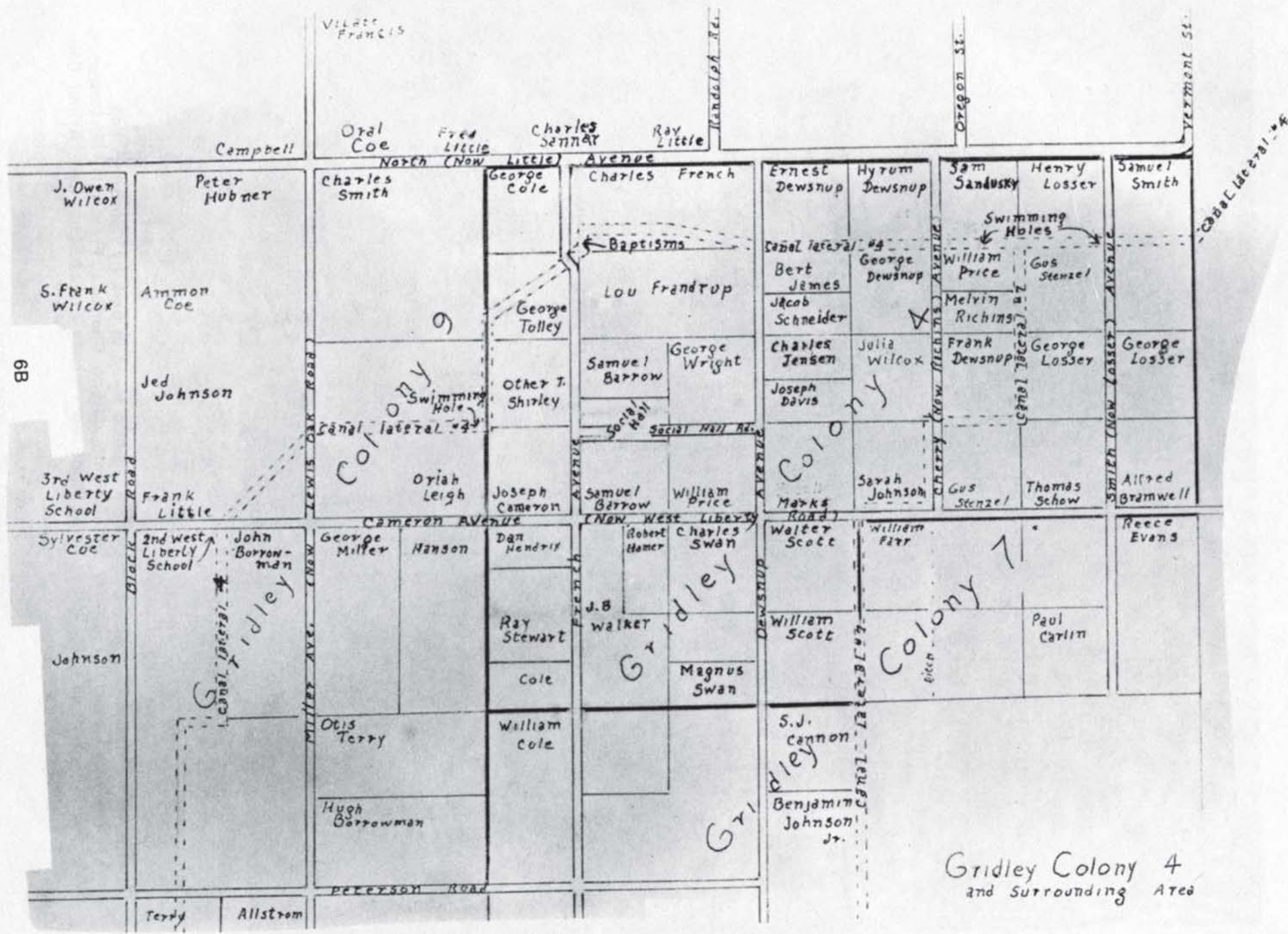
George F. Wright

Compiled from old church records by Dimon Stewart.

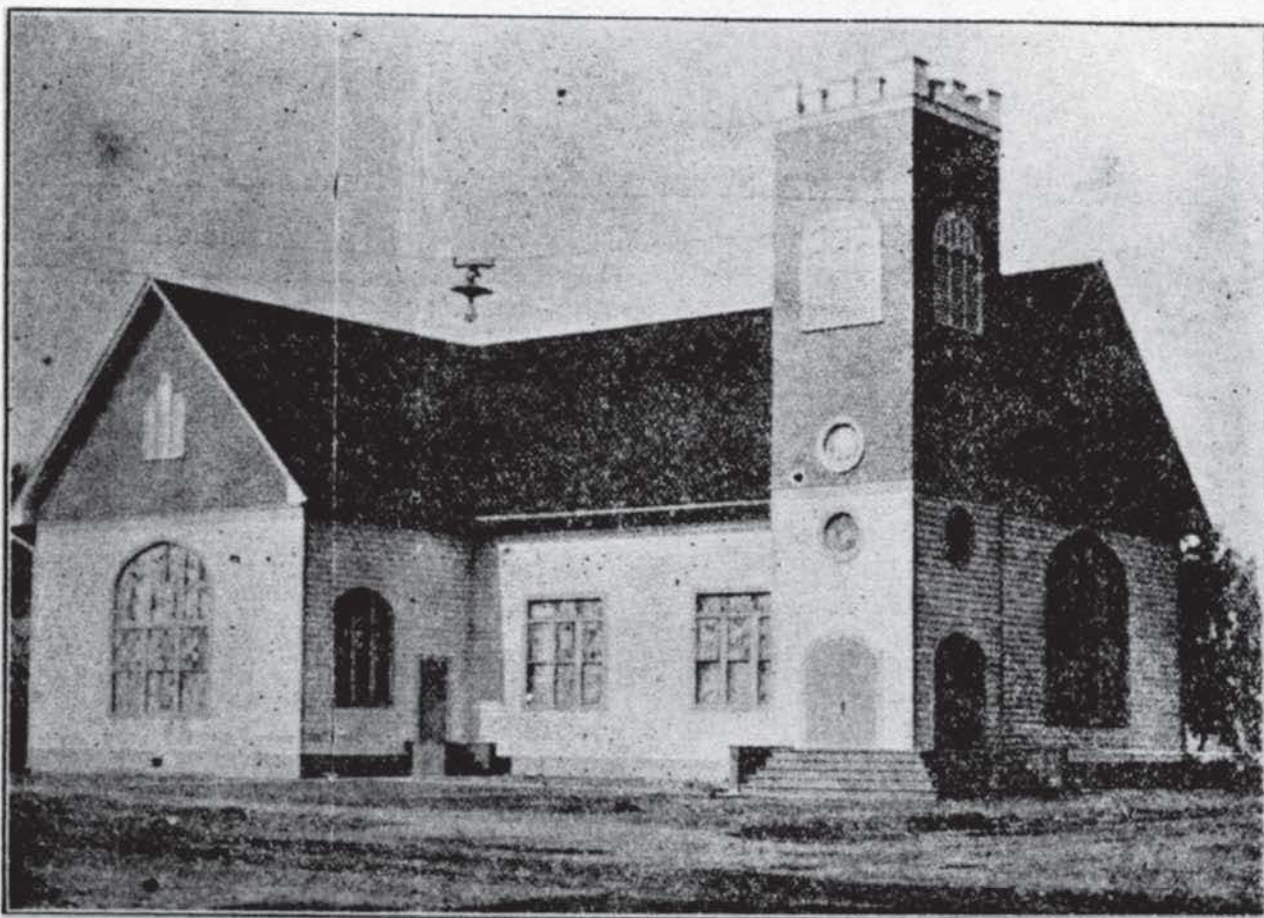


First group of Mormons to arrive in Gridley. Picture taken in park by railroad station.  
 Back row - Henry Losser, O.T. Shirley, Samuel Smith. Sitting, Charles L. French, Hyrum Dewsnup,  
 Waco Simmons, George Cole, James Cole. Front row - Vandy French, Luis Cole, Arthur Cole.









-1912-

THE NEW LATTER DAY SAINTS CHURCH AT GRIDLEY, CALIF



GEORGE W. TOLLEY,  
President.



J. O. WILCOX,  
2d Counsellor.



GEORGE M. LARSEN,  
1st Counsellor.





Gridley LDS Church 1912



6E

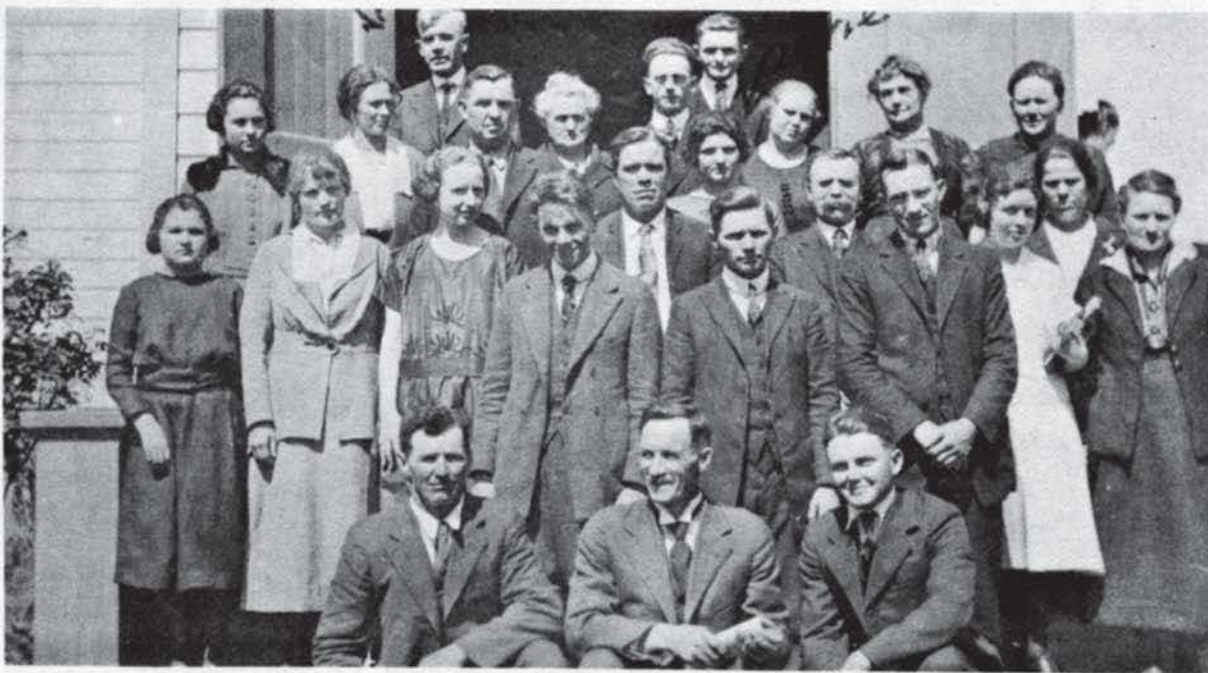
24th of July Celebration at Wickman Ranch 1907





Relief Society before 1918 - Liberty Branch. Top back row - Susie Terry, Agnes Wilcox, Agnes Shirley, Jane Scott, Bessie Sannar, Matilda Stewart. 2nd row - Sarah Evans, Miss Anderson [Missionary], Louise Dewsnap, Harriet Little, Libby Beck, Amanda Price, Polly Johnson, Louisa Borrowman. 3rd row - Rosa Branham, Amanda Fore, Emily Gattiker, Mary Ann Cole, Amanda Coe, Emma Scott, Susan Shirley, Julie Cole. 4th row - Ella O. Todd, Emily Barrow, Orlean Dewsnap, Dora Wallace, Martha Gattiker. Babies - Maureen Barrow, Eva Dewsnap, Ethel Mae Wallace.





**Branch President James M. Pryde and Officers and Teachers. 1923**



**Two Sunday School classes in 1921. Teachers are A. Williams and E. Pryde.**





George & Julia Cole



Group of Gridley Ward children about 1933

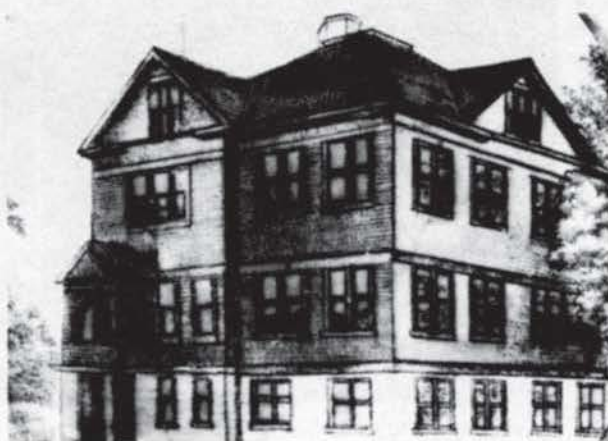




George Cole home where very first group of LDS met, Dec. 10, 1906



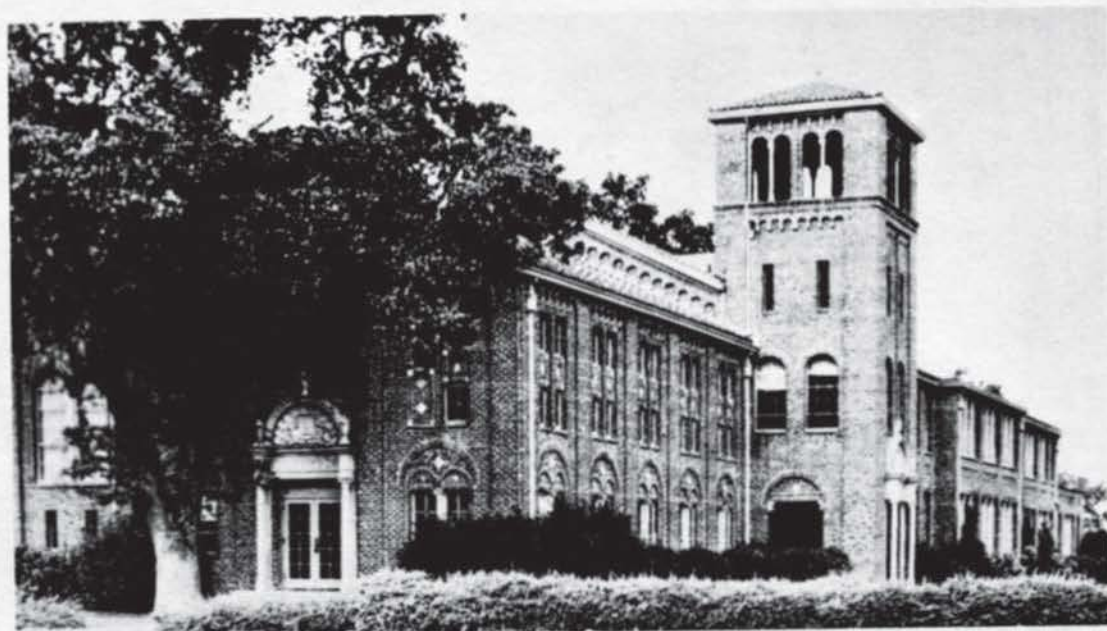
Old Gridley Opera House where early LDS meetings were held. Remodeled several times, latest one in 1978.



High School, corner of Vermont & Sycamore St. Across the street from Gridley Chapel. Torn down in 1927.



McKinley School, Vermont and Sycamore Streets. Torn down in 1934. Replaced by the present McKinley School.



Gridley Union High School - Built 1928 destroyed by fire July 4, 1942. Corner of Vermont and Sycamore St.



## METROPOLIS EXODUS

Taken from the journal of Robert L. Fife.

The desert was trying to "blossom like a rose" in Metropolis, Nevada. The fields were green and all the farmers were hoping for a good harvest. They had already been through several sieges of Jack rabbits, squirrels, Mormon crickets and drought. This year, by the look of the green crops, promised to be ideal. Already the alfalfa was two feet high.

On the fourth of July, 1924 the temperature dropped to an unbelievable low degree. In one night all the alfalfa froze, the potatoes and gardens were wiped out. As the community was 100 percent farming, this was a real disaster.

My father, William S. Fife was born and raised in Ogden, Utah. He had lived in Metropolis for 12 years, and was a successful farmer. After the frost he announced to his family that he had had it. He contacted Frank Powers, a close friend, and the two of them decided to take a look at California. Having little means they decided to take the train to California. I remember the evening we took them to Wells, Nevada, to board the Western Pacific freight train, because they could ride the freight free. Dad wore his only suit of clothes and over the top he wore a pair of overalls, and took one rolled up blanket, and \$10 in his pocket. In 1924 it was against company policy to ride the freight free, so they crept into a box car and waited. They figured if they were caught, they would just be dumped off and they would be back in the Nevada desert. My mother worried that she would never see them again. My brother Bill and I thought it was exciting.

When the train arrived in Sparks, Nevada, other (bums) who were veterans of this life style, told Dad and Frank to get in an open box car because in the next few hours they would be traveling through the most beautiful canyon, The Feather River, and they shouldn't miss the scenery. It was true. By dawn they were coming down the last part of the canyon. Dad and Frank did not even sleep, as they didn't want to miss the sights. Even Ogden canyon didn't compare to this.

About 10 A.M. the train came into Marysville. I think Dad had in his mind to go to Los Angeles, because that is where he had heard was so great, but on this beautiful July morning as the train passed through the peach and walnut orchards along the river, Dad said to Frank, "Let's get off in Marysville".

They got a room, cleaned up, left their blanket and overalls, and contacted a real estate agency. The salesman was very accomodating. He showed them all around Marysville, Yuba City and Meridian. As they were riding along, my father asked him if he knew any Mormons in the area. He told the agent he wanted his family to be near the church. The agent said he had an acquaintance in Biggs, James M. Pryde. Mr. Pryde was the Branch President of the Mormon church in Gridley and mentioned a colony of Mormons in the liberty area. He drove Dad and Frank to Biggs to meet Bro. Pryde and then showed them around the Gridley area.

My father couldn't believe what he was seeing. Fruit was everywhere. Dad thought this was "paradise". They had seen enough. This surely was the land of plenty and he wanted his family to partake of it.

Frank Powers made arrangements to buy a house and acreage on Justeson Avenue and Dad made tentative plans to buy 25 acres on Block Road, a part of the ranch now owned by Mont Justeson.

Will and Frank got a train ride back to Nevada with a work crew and once home began to sell everything. Due to the frost that hit everyone, no one could afford to purchase much of our equipment or live stock. We walked off our 150 acres of homestead and our 40 acres of irrigated land along with house, barn, concrete silo, some farming equipment and livestock; and never received a dime in payment for most of it.

We left Metropolis, Nevada, Nov. 12, 1924. There was a foot of snow on the ground and 14 inch icicles hanging from the eaves of the house. When we arrived in Biggs, the livestock went wild as there was green grass all around. We kids ate oranges green off the trees and thought they were great. Dad could hardly wait to start planting. He was a good farmer and provider. He raised all varieties of fruits and vegetables, melons were his specialty.

Each summer Dad would load the Star (Overland) car with fruits and melons and go back to Metropolis and give them to the saints and friends to entice them to move to this beautiful part of the country. "Will" Fife was most instrumental in bringing saints to Gridley. He was known as "Mr. Chamber of Commerce" by his friends. He couldn't rest until he had encouraged some 18 families to move to Gridley.



What an impact these families have had in the growth of the church and community here in Gridley. Today only a few saints remain in Metropolis. Most of the homes are gone. The Church, the hotel have burned. The two story school house is in ruins. If one looks carefully you can still find some of the sidewalk in place but the sagebrush and sand have taken over and leaves one to believe the elements have won.

They were a hardy band of pioneers who lived in Metropolis. They tried to subdue the land and live with the elements but the important blessing was that they had the church. They were a close knit group, often helping one another when problems and difficulties would arise. The friendships made and the struggle to survive along with a generous amount of pleasant memories will always be the heritage of those who lived there.

**The following is a list of the families who came to Gridley from Metropolis**

Those children who married local people are listed as married to.

**William and Dorothy Fife**

William S. Jr.  
Robert L. Md. to Marvis Jensen

**Frank and Matilda Powers**

Austin  
Carl Md. to Gladys  
Alice

**Frank and Matilda Powers**

Austin  
Carl Md. to Gladys  
Alice  
Hilda Md. to Birch Scott

**Adna and Fern Ferrin**

Mabel Md. to Jess Jensen  
Florence Md. to Rueb Jensen  
Wallace Md. to Alice Hepworth  
Don Md. to Mildred Jones  
Irene  
LaVern Md. to Tom Hodgkin

**Sanuel Ferrin**

Willie  
Ludeen Md. to Roy Waters

**Oscar and Phebe[deceased] Rice Md. Rowena**

Irene  
Wilford  
Charles  
Luella  
Lorna  
John

**Rueben and Florence Jensen**

Carl  
Bruce  
Douglas Md. to Dottie Sheppard  
Lucille  
Lois  
Beatrice  
Lenard Md. to Johan Henry  
Reed

**W. Clifford and Eulalia Jensen**

Marvis Md. to Robert Fife  
Donna Md. to Bill Stoddard  
Betty Md. to Omer Barrow  
JeriAnn

**Ira and Ellen Jensen**

Shirley  
Hal  
Steven

**Alfred and Zelma Walton**

Royden  
Arvil  
Arvil  
Glenna  
Marvin  
Richard (deceased)  
Verda

**Frank and Margaret Gerber**

Elmo  
Lambert  
Thelma  
Phyllis  
Bernice  
Claude  
Leland

**Goddard and Ebba Quist**

Lowell  
Paul Md. to Carol Hyde  
Wilford Md. to Marge Smith  
Grant  
Norman Md. to Echo Scott

**Will Hepworth**

Alice Md. to Wallace Ferrin  
Nobel Md. to Buelah Tolley  
Ray  
Vera  
Delbert Md. to Amy Smith

**Lloyd and Mae Hyde**

**Gene and Thelma Jensen**

Lyle  
Ted

**Woodwards**

Thelma Md. to Gene Jensen  
Rita Md. to Theron Hyde  
Herbert  
Mary Md. to Wesley Tolley

**Jesse and Mabel Jensen**

Leone Md. to Phil Peterson  
Beth Md. to Ray Roberts  
Arlene  
Bodell  
Marie Md. to Duane Smith  
Dale

Carol Hyde Md. to Paul Quist  
Erma Hyde Md. to Sidney Williams

**Randolph and Mabel Fife [met in Metropolis]**

Randolph  
Gwen  
Helen Jo Md. to Loren Stoddard  
Mabel  
Calvin  
James  
Florence

**Leland Fife**

Don and Betty  
Wayne Thomas and Brenda (grandson)

**Phil and Yvonne Quist**



**Robert & Dorothy Fife**  
Metropolis, Nevada Nov. 12, 1924



**Dorothy & Wm. S. Fife**



## THE HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE GRIDLEY STAKE

"Gridley Stake" was organized on November 4, 1934. The stake started functioning January 1, 1935.

The local branches, Gridley and Liberty, became wards when the new stake began. The stake organization meeting was held in Sacramento. The Gridley Stake was organized along with the Sacramento Stake at a special conference held at the Homestead Branch chapel in Sacramento on Nov. 3 and 4, 1934.

Representing the General Authorities at this meeting were Elder Melvin J. Ballard and Elder Alonzo A. Hinckley of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

Elder Melvin J. Ballard announced at this special conference that he and Elder Hinckley had been appointed by the First Presidency of the Church to represent them in organizing two stakes of Zion in this district with headquarters of one to be in Sacramento and the other in Gridley.

It was unanimously voted that the northern stake be called Gridley Stake. Elder Ballard then declared that the following branches were from thenceforth to be designated as wards in the Gridley Stake: Grass Valley, Gridley, Liberty, Corning, Oroville and Yuba City.

At this time (1934) there were approximately 1,498 persons in the new Gridley Stake.

As a matter of record it should be noted that Elder Ballard laid down the following guidelines for the new stake officers to observe: the Word of Wisdom, full payment of tithes, belief in all the doctrines of the church with no mental reservations, living at peace with his neighbors (especially his brethren), keeping the Sabbath holy, and living a moral life above reproach.

At this organization conference held in Sacramento on November 4, Elder Alonzo A. Hinckley outlined the boundaries of the Sacramento and Gridley stakes as follows: the boundary to the west to the San Francisco Stake, south to Stockton, eastward to include Placerville, northeast to include Grass Valley, north to include Chico and Corning, and west again to the boundary of the San Francisco Stake.

The boundary between the Gridley and Sacramento stakes was set north of Lincoln, leaving Lincoln in the Sacramento Stake.

Grass Valley was placed in the Gridley Stake because it was closer to Gridley than to Sacramento.

After the boundaries of the two stakes had been declared, the following officers for the Gridley Stake were sustained in office: John C.

Todd, Stake President; John T. Nielson Jr., First Counselor; Dimon A. Stewart, Second Counselor; Philip Ferrin, Stake Clerk.

Gridley Stake High Counselors named at this conference in 1934 were John T. Nielson Sr., James M. Pryde, Ellis Turnbaugh, Charles C. Sannar, William H. Mathews, Vasco Call, Walter Scott and Langley A. Moore. The remainder of the High Council were to be selected later.

Other stake officers sustained at that time were: John T. Nielson Sr., President of the High Priests Quorum; Wallace E. Ferrin, President of the Elders Quorum; Ruth B. Samson, President of the Relief Society; Walter G. Little, President of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association Board; Florence Barrow, President of the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association Board; Edmund Z. Taylor, Superintendent of Sunday Schools; Mabel E. Fife, President of the Stake Primary. Remember that these were Gridley Stake Officers.

Elder Ballard announced that the above-named persons were to select their counselors and submit these suggested names to the stake presidency for approval before the candidates were approached.

Also, the presidency of the stake and the High Council were to select and nominate the new bishops of the wards. These nominations were to be forwarded to the president of the church in Salt Lake City for his approval.

Some important events that occurred as a result of stake officers' action after the organization of the Gridley Stake in November of 1934 that may be of interest to readers. These stake officers were serving in the High Council, the Stake Union and the Stake Presidency.

November 8, 1934 - Pres. John Todd recommended that the stake rent five rooms from the Gridley High School to use one Sunday a month for stake union meetings.

November 8, 1934 - It was decided that a singing group from the Gridley Stake should sing from a moving truck during the Gridley Merchants' Community Christmas Party.

November 15, 1934 - Recommended for ward leadership were Randolph Fife, Gridley Ward President; Omer S. Barrow, Liberty Ward President.

December 8, 1934 - It was proposed that the stake M.I.A. board should organize a Gold and Green Ball to be held in the Gridley Memorial Hall on January 25, 1935.



December 13, 1934 - Permission was granted to the Gridley Ward to hold a ward Gold and Green Ball before the stake's Ball.

January 3, 1935 - Plans were made for the visitation of Council of Twelve members. These were Bishop John Wells and Elder Stephen L. Richards.

January 6, 1935 - Bishop John Wells reported that 40 years previous to this date the church had 240 wards and 23 stakes. On this date the church contained 110 stakes and over 1,000 wards.

February 24, 1935 - The stake boundary was changed to include Red Bluff on the north. This was done to strengthen the Corning Ward.

April 28, 1935 - The matter of raising money for a stake pipe organ was discussed at this time. In addition, the possibility of having a stake summer camp was considered.

May 3, 1935 - Plans for a new stake office were discussed.

July 24, 1935 - Pioneer Day Celebration: The 24th of July was celebrated with a parade of covered wagons, carts and costumed people through the streets of Gridley to the Municipal Park, where a picnic was held. In the afternoon an Indian battle was staged. Swimming and games were enjoyed. The celebration closed with a ball at Liberty Ward Amusement Hall in the evening. All of the wards of the stake participated in this celebration at Gridley.



1st Counselor  
John T. Nielson  
1934 - 1950



President John C. Todd  
1934 - 1950



2nd Counselor  
Dimon A. Stewart  
1934 - 1950



Bishop Omer S. Barrow - Liberty Ward



Bishop Randolph W. Fife - Gridley Ward





Organization of Gridley and Sacramento Stakes - 4 Nov. 1934. Taken in Sacramento.

## CONSTRUCTION OF THE GRIDLEY WARD AND STAKE BUILDING

The building of the new church on Spruce Street in Gridley began in October of 1948. Construction was completed in the spring of 1951 at 7:00 P.M.

The new church on Spruce Street was built at a structural cost of \$162,000 and a finished cost of \$187,000. Most of the labor of the actual construction was provided by the members of the church. This labor amounted to 32,239 hours of donated time, equivalent to wages that would have otherwise cost the church \$53,562.46.

On Friday, April 20, 1951, two days before the formal Sunday dedicatory exercises, the beautiful new church was opened for inspection by the general public. The open house was held that day between 5:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. Dancing, also open to the public, took place between 9:00 and 11:00 P.M.

The dedication of the new church was carried out by David O. McKay, at that time the newly-sustained President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

On this most momentous occasion, the dedication program was as follows:

### DEDICATION PROGRAM

#### Prelude

Opening Song	
"We Thank Thee Oh God For a Prophet"	by William Fowler
Choir & Congregation	
Invocation	Dimon A. Stewart
"Song of The Redeemed"	Gridley Ward Choir
Sung at the Dedication	Director--Alice Carlin
of the Logan Temple	Organist--Robert Fife
	Obligato Duet
	Norma Fife and Nathel Burdick
Speaker	Bishop W. Clifford Jensen
Speaker	Clifford Carlin
Speaker	Randolph E. Fife
Solo	
"Bless This House"	Lillian Johnson
Speaker	John Todd
Speaker	Walter G. Little
Song	
"Come, Come Ye Saints"	by William Clayton
Gridley Ward MIA Male Chorus	Director--Loren Stoddard
Speaker	President Harry E. McClure
Anthem	
"Hosannah"	by Evan Stevens
Written for the Dedication	Gridley Ward Choir
of the Salt Lake Temple	
Dedicatory Sermon and Prayer	President David O. McKay
Closing Song	
"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"	Choir and Congregation
Benediction	John T. Nielson, Jr.

#### Postlude



The new building was described in detail by the newspaper following an open house at the church. The article states:

"More than 1,000 people attended the open house of the new Latter Day Saints Church on Spruce Street in Gridley Friday evening.

The structural cost of this ultra modern building is \$162,184 and the finished and furnished cost is \$187,000. A cash value of \$52,652 worth of labor was donated.

Bishop W. C. Jensen greeted the guests at the front door of the chapel and each signed the guest book before entering the foyer and the Bishop's office.

Bishop officials are: W.C. Jensen, Bishop; Randolph Fife, and Clifford Carlin, Councilors, Russell Burdick, ward clerk.

Numerous floral displays were sent by business houses in Gridley and added to the restful atmosphere. Members of the building committee and other church organizations conducted the tours. The committee members are Randolph Fife, representative of the Bishopric; Bill Stoddard, contractor representative; Drexell Tolley superintendent of the building; Ira Jensen, plaster and cement; J.F. Nielsen, sheet metal; Merrill Orme, personnel manager; Carl Hagberg, plumbing; Grant Quist, electrical; and Jennie Sannar, secretary and publicity manager.

The chapel, which is done in effective colors of blue green walls, yellow ceiling and a thick green rug, will seat 275 people on Philippine mahogany of natural color. The choir seats 30 persons and is of the same material. These pews were made by Jesse Chandler in the Butte Builders shoprooms.

A new grand piano is in the north end of the chapel and there is space for an especially built organ, which will be delivered sometime in June or July. All proceeds from dinners served at conferences for a number of years have gone toward the purchase of this organ.

The rostrum is of modern design, and is in a semicircle and equipped with a microphone and accoustics accredited to acoustic plaster on the ceiling of all the rooms.

Leaving the chapel, the tour continues into the auditorium with a seating capacity of 800 people.

At the west end there is a large plate glass window between the chapel and the auditorium, equipped with pull drapes to take care of any overflow crowd. The people sitting in the auditorium can hear and see as well as if

they were sitting in the chapel itself. The accoustics are so good a child's natural tone of voice can be heard in the rear of the room.

The stage in the auditorium is adorned with an aqua curtain with gold figures. Modern stage lighting is from the ceiling and each side of the stage - no foot lights - and is controlled from backstage.

Next one passes through a hall into the Stake president's office which is newly furnished and finished in the aqua, yellow and beige colors which are carried out throughout the church. The Stake president is Harry McClure, of Yuba City; Julius Papa, of Yuba City, is Counselor; Loren Stoddard, of Gridley, Counselor; Ned Davis, Stake Clerk. The Stake High Council room is also newly furnished and in the beige tones.

Next we pass down the hall, which has floors of aqua and blue green asphalt tile and into the beautiful blue tiled men's restrooms and showers.

The next room is the Aaronic priesthood room and the Boy Scout room.

The Relief Society powder room is done in yellow tile and a large plate glass mirror. This room is to be furnished at a later date.

The Relief Society kitchen is completely furnished with dishes, cooking utensils, a new stove, two sinks, and a steam table. Four hundred people can be served from this kitchen.

The Relief Society meeting room is done in beige rugs and two tone beige drapes. A lovely fireplace and mirror are added features of this room. There are modern folding doors at one end which open into the quilting room where the ladies may leave the quilt if it is not finished all the same day. This room also boasts two chesterfields and 18 overstuffed chairs.

Outside onto the arcade we walk down to the end where there are three classrooms. The black boards are done in the same color as the walls and colored chalk is used.

Across the patio to the west wing there are four class rooms. The Junior Sunday Schoolroom is furnished with 40 small folding chairs for children, and there is room enough for 100 children. This room has a small stage and a complete kitchen with tile drainboard, and new stove.

The Baptismal fountain is at the south end of the Junior Sunday schoolroom and has sliding glass doors. This is of blue tile. There are two more restrooms used for dressing."



An article appeared in one of the local newspapers under the title "New Gridley LDS Church Is Dedicated". The article is as follows:

David O. MacKay, new-elected president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, was featured speaker last night at the formal dedication of the new \$187,000 LDS church here. It was his first out-of-state appearance since becoming president of the church.

Nearly 3,000 church members participated in the weekend ceremonies dedicating the modern Ward Chapel and Gridley Stake House. They included members from Yuba City, Oroville, Grass Valley and Chico Wards of the church.

MacKay was accompanied by Bishop LeGrande Richards, presiding bishop of the church, who conducted services Saturday evening, and presided at a session of the Gridley Stake conference yesterday.

The Gridley Stake was honored by this unusual visit from the two top church leaders. It is seldom they appear together at an out-of-state event.

It was the first visit of President MacKay here since 1910. He opened his sermon with a quotation from Ruskin, "Therefore, when we build, let us think that we build for forever, not

for today." He commended the church members for their untiring efforts in building and planning the new structure, and paid tribute to the wives of the men who helped. He cautioned the young people present to have reverence for the new building, and to maintain it.

Bishop Richards spoke during the ceremonies, and noted that more tithing is paid by a ward while a building is being constructed than at any other time. "People are not making a sacrifice to build a new church," he said.

More than 1,100 people were present for the first service Sunday morning, and the chapel was filled an hour before session began.

While here, President MacKay and his wife were the guests of Bishop Harry E. McClure, of Yuba City, president of the Gridley Stake. McClure presided over the conference. "It is a very great honor and privilege to have President MacKay with us for the dedication ceremonies," Bishop McClure said at the dedication last night.

At the time of President MacKay's first visit to Gridley in 1910, this represented the only LDS church west of Nevada. He assumed the highest office of the church April 9, following the death of former President George Smith on April 4."

## STATISTICS OF NEW BUILDING

DATE BEGUN	OCTOBER 1, 1948
STRUCTURAL COST	\$162,184.00
FINISHED and FURNISHED COST	\$187,000.00
HOURS of DONATED LABOR	32,239
MONEY VALUE of DONATED LABOR	\$53,652.00
NUMBER of PEOPLE WHO DONATED LABOR	392
AVERAGE NUMBER of HOURS DONATED by EACH	81
LARGEST NUMBER of HOURS DONATED by any one INDIVIDUAL	see below 1626
NUMBER of WOMEN DONATING HOURS	72
NUMBER DONATING OVER 1,000 HOURS	6
NUMBER DONATING OVER 500 HOURS	17
NUMBER DONATING OVER 100 HOURS	68



## COMMITTEES

Harold W. Burton -- Architect

### Building Committee:

Randolph E. Fife  
Harold J. Stoddard  
Drexell Tolley  
Merrill S. Orme  
Grant Quist  
John T. Nielson, Jr.  
Carl Hagberg  
Ira M. Jensen  
Shirley Smith  
Jennie Sannar  
Norma Fife  
Ruth Carlin

Chairman  
Contractor's Representative  
Superintendent  
Assistant Supt. & Personnel Director  
Electrical  
Sheet Metal & Heating  
Plumbing  
Cement Work & Plastering  
Secretaries  
Saturday Dinners

### Special Assignments:

Fred Johns  
Dimon Stewart  
Jesse Z. Chandler

Painting  
Road Work & Grading  
Millwork & Pews

### Landscaping:

Robert L. Fife

### Finance Committee:

Clifford P. Carlin  
Walter G. Little  
Howard Sannar  
Omer N. Barrow  
Betty Barrow

Chairman  
Executive Chairman  
Member  
Member  
Secretary

Fife and Stoddard Construction Company gave a great deal of leadership and support to the building of the new Stake Center on Spruce Street. The Fife's involved were Randolph E. Fife (Randy) and Calvin B. Fife. The Stoddards were Loren Stoddard and Harold (Bill) Stoddard.



**Building Committee**  
 Randolph Fife, Bill Stoddard, Carl Hagberg,  
 Robert Fife, Ira Jensen, Drexell Tolley,  
 Merrill Orme.



**Luncheon Committee, Nov. 6, 1948**  
 Myrtle Clyde, Norma Fife, Carol Quist



**Richard McDowell, Nov. 21, 1950**



**Grant Quist, Vere Gardner, May 1950**





Harvey Coe



John T. Nielson Jr., Merrill Orme



Top of Tower, Drex Tolley, Don Farnsworth,  
Grover Cameron



Surveyor, Hughes Williams



John Todd, Joseph Callap, Ed Voorhes, Frank  
Webb, April 1950



Fred Johns, painter



Ira Jensen, June 1949



Top of Tower, Theodore Moody, Bill Stoddard



Grover Cameron & Dimon Stewart





Lunch Break - Randolph Fife, Walter Little,  
Wilford Rice, Jan. 29, 1949



Howard Sannar



John T. Nielson Jr., Sheet Metal Worker  
He worked more hours than any man on the  
project.



Part of Luncheon Committee, Rachael Bate,  
Ruth Carlin





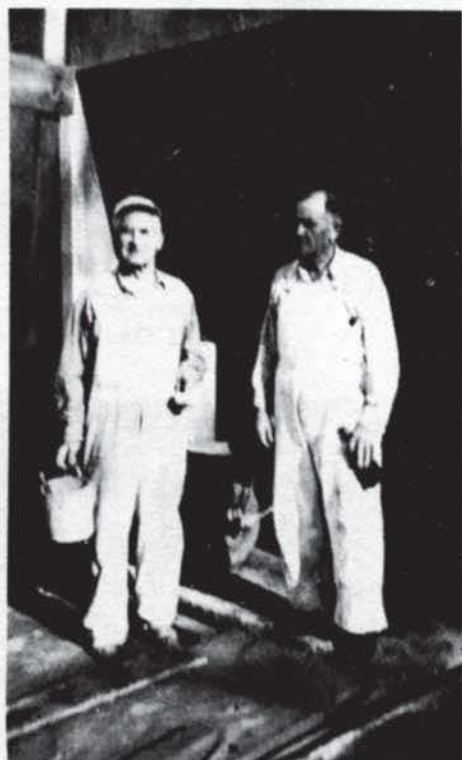
Bishop W.C. Jensen, Upper left shows new Biggs Gridley Memorial Hospital



Grant Quist, Vere Gardner, LeRoy Richins, John C. Todd [kneeling], Drexell Tolley



Calvin B. Fife, fireplace in R.S. room. Fireplace was removed in a later remodeling

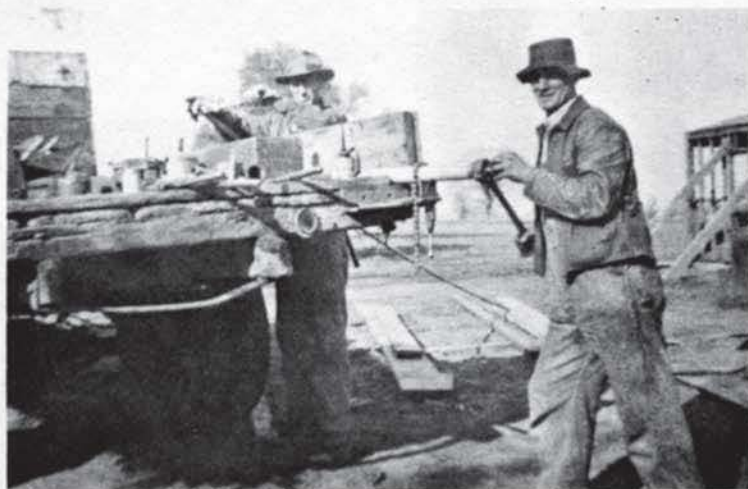


Painters, Goddard Quist & Fred Johns



Plasterer, Calvin Fife





Ned Davis and Carl Hagberg, Jan. 29, 1949



Wilford Quist, Nov. 26, 1949



**CHURCH DEDICATION SUNDAY** — Pictured above is the beautiful new Grindley Ward L. D. S. church in Grindley to be dedicated Sunday evening. David O. McKay, new president of the church, who will deliver the dedication sermon is pictured at right. At left is W. Clifford Jensen, president of the Grindley Branch.



**L. D. S. President To Dedicate New Church**

Dedication of the new Grindley Latter Day Saint church, a long-time project which started in the fall of 1946 and is now in the final stages of furnishing, will take place Sunday, October 23rd, at 7:00 p. m.

The church, one of the most modern in the northern part of the



**LDS Church Open House Friday**

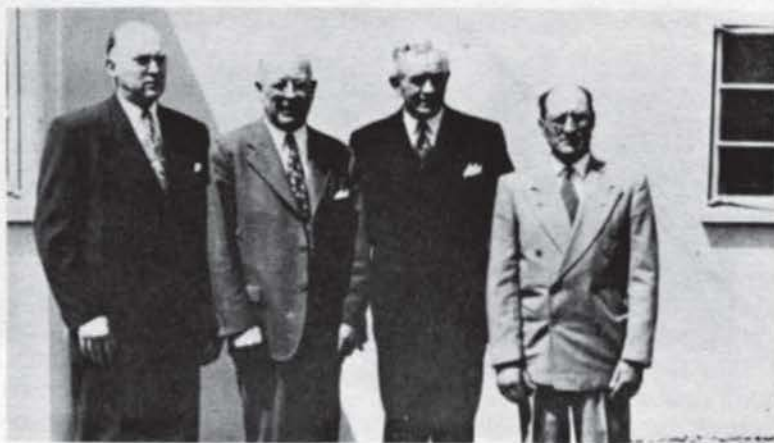
The general public is invited to inspect the new church.



Building site before any construction had started.

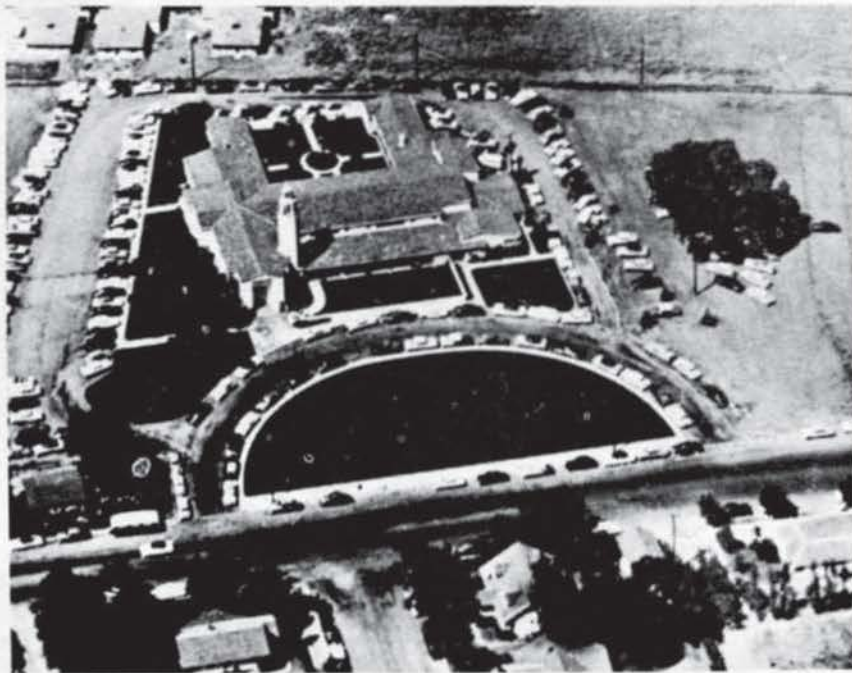


Pres. John C. Todd facing camera with wheelbarrow. Biggs Gridley Memorial Hospital is in the background.



Front of the church on April 22, 1951: Pres. Harry E. McClure, Bishop LeGrand Richards, Pres. David O. McKay, and Bishop W. Clifford Jensen.





Picture of church taken at an early Stake Conference. The picture was taken before the Bishops Storehouse [Genealogy Library] was built.



April 22, 1951, President David O. McKay speaking at the dedication of the Gridley Stake Center. At his right is Bishop LeGrand Richards, Presiding Bishop of the Church. Others seated are members of the High Council: Leslie H. Nims, Drexell E. Tolley, Milton J. Snowball, and Ira M. Jensen. This was a great event in the history of the Gridley Stake to have both the President of the Aaronic Priesthood and the President of the Melchizedek Priesthood here at the same time.



## DRAMA IN THE CHURCH--- MORMON HERITAGE

Joseph Smith, the prophet, considering drama an excellent medium for expression and recreation, established a dramatic company at Nauvoo. Brigham Young and other early leaders took an active part in dramatics, and when the Salt Lake Theater, the largest theater west of the Mississippi at the time of its construction was dedicated by Brigham Young in 1862, he said, "I built this theater to attract the young of our community and to provide amusement for girls and boys, the stage can be made to aid the pulpit in impressing upon the minds of the community an enlightened sense of a virtuous life." Thus we can see the reason why LDS people who settled in Gridley included a drama program as part of their cultural life.

During the years 1908-1909, the Social Hall was constructed. In 1912 the Gridley Branch Chapel was erected in the city. Both of these buildings were equipped with stages which were adequate for the times, and which were well used in the ensuing years.

Drama was produced from the very beginning in these two buildings, but few records were kept of such activities, and memories are faulty, little can be known of the productions during the early years of the church in Gridley and Liberty Branches.

One of the very early productions, a light opera called "Queen Esther", was directed by choir leader George Cole, probably near 1912.

### **Ray E. Stewart**

Everyone who lived in the Liberty and Gridley Branches remembers Bro. Ray Stewart and his participation in a dramatic activity. Melodramas were popular at that time and so Bro. Stewart directed several, among them, "My Old New Hampshire Home" and "The Old Homestead". These were real tear jerkers and the people loved them. Probably they were produced around 1918.

Many others were active in Liberty Branch productions. Alice Cole Carlin and Mrs. Elizabeth (Lizzie) Davis directed several light operas. Mrs. Elaine Little directed a three act play, "The Exodus from Nauvoo" in which Dimon Stewart played the part of Brigham Young.

### **Dorothy Fife**

The year 1924 was an eventful one concerning the future of the theater in Gridley, for it was the year that the William S. Fife

family moved to this area from Nevada. Mrs. Fife or Dorothy as she was well known, had a keen interest in the theater, and while active as a director in Gridley produced and directed over thirty-five plays, plus many pageants, drills, Gold and Green Balls and other special programs.

She produced such plays as "When Shakespeares Ladies Meet", "Henry's Other Wife", "Success", "Adam and Eve", and the classic drama, "Strongheart", by Cecile B. DeMille. With a cast of twenty seven, Strongheart was one of her best remembered plays. It started out as a three act drama for the Gridley Branch, then a request by the Community Club to play at the Memorial Hall, and finally a request performance in Chico at the Chico Memorial Auditorium. It was a great success and enjoyed by hundreds.

Like any director, Sister Fife had troubles in producing her sometimes rather grandioso productions. On one occasion, when a member of the chorus line did not bring white shoes like the other chorus members, Sister Fife went through the audience until she found white shoes of the proper size and borrowed them for the performance. The energy and detail that Dorothy Fife gave to her work would have given almost any person ulcers, but she enjoyed the theater, enjoyed working with the youth of the church, and was certainly a strong influence in establishing the love of drama in the hearts and the lives of many people. She will long be remembered for her pursuit of excellence and quality of performance which she obtained in the productions under her direction.

In the 1930s contest plays were produced by the MIA. One of which took second place in the Church Regional Contest in the city of Oakland, Calif. The judge was W.O. Robinson, who was a member of the General Board MIA Drama Committee.

Some of the more recent productions have been "The Family Up Stairs", produced in the Memorial Hall around 1947 and directed by Norma Fife. The play was well received and had a cast which included Nathel Burdick, Richard Jones, Betty Jensen, Jean Orme, Omer Barrow, Don Fife, and Randy Fife. "The Stars Hung Low" was directed by Pearl Tolley and produced in 1949.



### **Promised Valley**

In 1961 the Gridley Stake MIA produced the musical--drama "Promised Valley" by Crawford Gates and Arnold Sundgaard. This was written to commemorate the entering of the Saints into the Great Salt Lake Valley in 1847. It was a story of the Saints in the east and their struggle for existence on the trek to Utah territory. It portrayed the courage, the stamina, the hardships, the heartaches and their strong desire to establish the church in the west; where they could help fulfill prophecy and have peace.

The drama director was Sister Rona Sanderson of Yuba City, and the music

director was Alice Carlin, with a cast and chorus of 60. It played for two nights and was a huge success.

### **Mary Clements**

In the late 60's, Ray and Mary Clements moved to Gridley First Ward. Sister Clements had a great talent for directing. She loved the youth and through the great MIA program of the church, she directed many enjoyable comedies. One of her many successes was "Five on a Honeymoon". Mary also directed and produced several original "Road Shows", skits, and variety shows for the ward and for the entertainment of all who would participate and for those who attended the productions.

## **DRAMA PRODUCTIONS TODAY**

### **Mary Ann Jenkins**

The Jenkins family moved to Gridley the summer of 1970, when Dr. Jenkins joined the Medical Center. Mary Ann has been involved in drama most of her life. Her first experience was as a Beehive girl, in the Mutual program, when she took part in a ward play. Through high school and college she continued on in dramatics, but turned from acting to directing when she became involved in church productions.

After moving to Gridley, Mary Ann was called to be a counselor in Stake Young Women Presidency. She found herself responsible for the MIA Family Play, "Suddenly Your Older." She directed it and had as the leads, that grow old right on stage, Nancy Thomas and Richard Hall.

Although not a play, many will remember the special presentation for the Relief Society Birthday in 1977, "Living Statues." The statues for the Nauvoo Monument were recreated with live models. They were costumed and made up to represent the sculptured works of art. Narration and music completed the program.

In 1978, a small group of people met to discuss the special presentation for the dedication of the new stake center in Yuba City. It was decided by this committee to do an original musical production, depicting the

growth of the church in the Gridley area. Pat Beadle took the assignment of writing the script. She took the story line from a journal provided by Analee Wiser. The journal belonged to her grandparents, George and Julia Cole. The stories in the journal were touching and inspiring. They related the trials and joys of the Cole Family and their move from Rexburg to Gridley. JoAnn Engle composed music and lyrics to touch the heart and enhance the dialogue. At the beginning of the year in 1979, the script was ready and casting took place. Under the direction of Mary Ann Jenkins, rehearsals began and "Heritage of Love", came to life on the stage, the first production on the stage of the new stake center. Taking leads in the play were Elwood Larson, Steve Hill, Bob Cunningham and Analee Wiser. The cast and audience both felt more their "heritage" after the performances. The play was presented for 3 nights, with a cast and stage crew of 130 people. In commemoration of the Relief Society and the Sesquicentennial celebration, "Because of Elizabeth", was presented recently in the Gridley Stake. It was adapted from the original script by Mary Ann and directed to be a multi-media production. It played two nights in Gridley and two nights in Oroville. Taking the leads were Marlene Carlin and Mike Davis, with a cast of 75.



## MUSIC

### Mormon Brass Band

Many of the early Liberty and Gridley settlers played instruments of the band; several got together and formed a Mormon Brass Band. They played for many celebrations and patriotic occasions such as the 4th of July, Pioneer Day, July 24th, wedding receptions and even dances. They were in great demand and lifted the hearts and lives of many in those early days.

### Alice Cole Carlin

Alice organized a group of girls from the Liberty Branch MIA into a singing group in 1932. They were called the T.W.O. Club, in short for The Warbling Optomists. The group performed for two years for various church and community functions for the area of Gridley. Alice was sustained as Choir Director for Liberty Branch when she was 19 years old about 1931. She continued to lead the choir until moving into the Gridley Ward in 1941. She served as Choir Director there until 1952. After moving to Sacramento she organized a youth chorus of about 100 voices which she directed for two years. On moving back to Gridley she served as music director, organist, and choir director for both ward and stake for many years. Alice also directed a number of operettes. She was very liberal with her musical talent and was always willing to share and help others. Alice sustained two massive heart attacks in 1975, but shortly after coming out of the hospital she returned to leading the Gridley Ward Choir. She was also Sunday School Organist until her death on December 15, 1979.

### From Broadway to Harlam

During the construction of the Gridley Stake Center on Spruce St. in 1949-50, many building fund projects were undertaken. None were more successful than the Gridley Ward MIA Male Chorus. It consisted of twenty voices, directed by Loren Stoddard and accompanied by Robert Fife. Their repertoire was extensive, including familiar sacred, tunes from Broadway, southern spirituals and popular hits. The group traveled all around the Sacramento Valley giving benefit shows, while raising money for the new Stake building fund.

The Gridley Herald reported on Friday, May 26, 1950 -

"TO REPEAT MUSICAL SHOW---FROM BROADWAY TO HARLAM", the musical show presented by the LDS Male Chorus a short time ago, again will be presented Thursday evening, June 1st, this time the Gridley Memorial Building under sponsorship of the Gridley Community Club. A packed house greeted the chorus on its initial

appearance and the show was voted one of the best ever presented here. New songs and novelty numbers have been added, including ten lively chorus girls.

Proceeds are to be donated to the club's hospital and youth recreation fund. A parade to advertise the benefit performance will be planned for Monday at 5 P.M. the admission charges will be --- Adults \$1.00; students 50 cents; and children under 10 free.

### Gridley Stake Pipe Organ

Excerpts from news clippings in the Gridley Herald, Tuesday June 24, 1952. -

"LARGE CROWD ATTENDS LDS ORGAN DEDICATION" - Between 800 and 900 people crowded the chapel and auditorium of the Gridley LDS Church for the exercises centered around the dedication of the new pipe organ with Dr. Frank Asper organist of the tabernacle at Salt Lake City, and John Parrish, who is an American tenor, also of Salt Lake City, who were present as guest artists. Both Dr. Asper and Mr. Parrish were warmly received and responded with many encores.

In a sermon and a dedicatory prayer, John C. Todd, a past president of Gridley Stake, presented a history of the movement to raise funds for the organ. The idea originated in 1934 when a float entered by the Church in a Gridley Merchants Christmas Party Parade was given first prize, \$7.50. On receipt of the check it was suggested by Mrs. Todd that the organ fund be established. Funds from various things and activities including hat check and refreshment receipts at Gold and Green balls, luncheons, dinners and other events, swelled the fund as the years went by until a substantial sum was realized.

With the near completion of the new Stake Center, it was time to select and order the new pipe organ. With the funds available the 9 rank Balcom and Vaughn organ made in Seattle was chosen; at a cost of \$10,000.

The instrument installed in the spring of 1952, has given excellent service and the tone is of superb quality for our church services.

### Etta Todd

We are all deeply indebted to Etta Todd, who almost single handed and with a goal of having a quality instrument, persuaded the music committee to purchase the pipe organ over an electronic organ.

Sister Etta Todd was called as Stake organist and served for many years. She was instrumental in organizing master classes for choristers and organists. Many fine music teachers were persuaded to come to little old Gridley and give these classes.



## GOLD AND GREEN BALLS

In the late 1920's the MIA General Board suggested that a lovely ball be held in honor of the young women of the church. These were called Gold and Green Balls after the MIA colors. They were usually held in January or February in the Gridley area.

About the year 1927 Sister Dorothy Fife was President of the MIA in the Gridley Branch. When she received instructions to hold such a ball, there were no directions on how to proceed. Sister Fife wrote to her sister in Ogden and asked what they did in her ward. She was told they selected a queen from the qualified young ladies in the Ward to reign over the ball. From this information, Sister Fife proceeded to plan the first Gold and Green Ball in this area.

The Gridley Branch MIA selected qualified young ladies and they were either chosen or voted by lot to be the queen of the ball. The others were chosen as attendants. Each Branch and Ward held their own ball and then the Stake held the final one. A queen was chosen, to reign over the stake ball, these were chosen from the branch and ward queens, and the others were her attendants.

In later years, the chosen queen idea gave way to the honoring of all the worthy young women and young men who were seniors in high school. This is strictly a Gridley Stake tradition and is a lovely event each year.

As the years progressed, the decorations, pageantry, floor shows and entertainment developed until they were beautiful spectacles, and they were outstanding community affairs, known throughout the entire valley.

### **Stake Gold and Green Ball**

With the organization of the Gridley Stake in 1934 the first Stake Ball was held in the Memorial Hall, Jan. 25, 1935. News writeups in Gridley included "Gold and Green Ball proves most elaborate Social Event and Pageant ever Witnessed in the Gridley Area". - Gridley, Jan. 28 --Lauded as unequalled by any other event in this city in point of beauty and arrangement of decorative setting, and costuming, the Gold and Green Ball of the Gridley Stake LDS was held Friday night and was more than successful. The ball was the first social event of the newly organized Gridley Stake. Queens of the wards chose the queen of the ball, Sara Moore from Oroville, her attendants were: Winona Jones - Colusa; Maurine Perry - Nevada City; Afton Johnson -

Yuba City; Hilda Powers - Gridley; Alda Bheiler - Corning; Rosa Farnworth - Liberty. Decorations in the Memorial auditorium were the most elaborate ever attempted here, the whole place was transformed.

Following a period of general dancing to the music of the All Star orchestra, the evening's ceremonies opened, being heralded with a trumpet call by Morrell Farr. Sixteen young girls of the Gridley Ward, costumed as pages, their garb being gold and green contrast colors from stockings to feather caps, entered the hall, each one carried a staff bearing a silver star. The pages cleared a large central area on the floor and stood guard. The curtain arose to reveal a resplendent scene wherein six maids of honor of the queen gowned in gold and green and bearing silver starred staffs, stood at one side on a terraced bank of green, each framed in a giant golden star. Dancing girls gracefully posed at the foot of the embankment. While the orchestra softly played "When the Moon comes over the Mountain", a golden quarter moon arose from behind the terrace, bearing the queen, Miss Sara Moore of Oroville, seated in its curve. Guided to the stage, Mayor Munter mounted the terrace and formally crowned the queen, Miss Sara

The floor show of the several dancers followed - "The Lancers" - by Nevada City and Gridley Ward representatives - and "The Gleam" - fox trot - by all wards - the "Rye Waltz" - a specialty - by Nevada City and Oroville Wards - and "Senorita Mia".

Mrs. Lillian Nielson and Mrs. Norma Taylor were in charge of the stage setting and decoration.

### **Gold and Green Ball Feb. 4, 1938**

An estimated crowd of 600 persons witnessed what many said was the most colorful pageant ever presented by the MIA of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the Memorial Hall last night.

The theme of the ball "The First Lady" was a departure from other balls which featured a queen. Miss Leah Ellsworth, of Yuba City, was a charming "first lady" and her escort was Carl Jensen.

The pageantry was directed by Mrs. Wm. S. Fife, whose capable supervision is responsible for much of the success of the ball and its predecessors. Mrs. Fife had full charge of the stage setting and costuming. The "Colonial theme" is original with the Gridley Stake.



#### **1940 Gold and Green Ball**

The pageantry and floor show of the 1940 Ball was outstanding. Due to the fact that each ball is carefully planned and pageantry consistently rehearsed, it is difficult to say that the latest event is more successful than those preceding. However, it is generally conceded that the floor show, the dancing of the "Viennese Waltz" by nine couples, was affected with a great degree of perfection and smoothness than any preceding event.

The "Garden" stage setting, designed by Marie Carlin, provided a beautiful background for the pageantry.

#### **1945 Gold and Green Ball**

Gridley Herald Feb. 2, 1945 - Pageantry of over 100 persons take part in the Gold and Green Ball presented by the LDS Church. Mabel Fife (McDowell) was queen of the ball. The theme of the ball was "Roses from the South". The stage was beautifully decorated with roses in lattice work accented by four artificial garden fountains.

The floor show started with the "Gold and Green Caprice", danced by 20 couples and directed by Etta Todd. "Swinging in the Sun" also directed by Etta, was danced by scouts, explorers, Beehive and Junior girls.

The theme dance "Roses from the South", was directed by Marvis and Robert Fife, and was danced by 16 couples including Queen Mabel.

Concluding dance of "Grand Old Flag", directed by Dorothy Fife, was danced by 10 girls, with solo by Zelma Johnson.

A selection was sung by a trio from Yuba City consisting of Coleen McKan, Dansel McKan and Rosa Papa (Rizor).

#### **1947 Gold and Green Ball**

An outdoor scene with campfire and covered wagon of pioneer days was the centennial theme of the 1947 Gold and Green Ball.

The Queen was Mattie Allgood of Chico. Her attendants were: Hermina Soeth of Gridley; Jean Alexander from Grass Valley; Barbara Hendrix of Liberty; and Mazel Rasmussen of Oroville.

75 dancers took part in the floor show. Verna Swan was the featured vocalist, Mrs.

Randolph (Norma) Fife was in charge of the queen presentation. Noble Hepworth, Anita Todd, Etta Todd and Bob Fife directed the floor show numbers. Mr. and Mrs. Merwin Mitchell were in charge of the stage setting. Mardell Horn and Rube Jensen decorated the hall. Royden Walton is general manager of the dance.

#### **1950 Gold and Green Ball**

Regardless of a downpour of rain, standing room was a premium at the annual Gold and Green Ball held Feb. 2nd and 3rd, 1950 at the Memorial Hall. (The last ball to be held in the Memorial Hall). The stage decoration, in keeping with the theme of the ball, "Rainbow Fantasy," was decorated to represent a rainbow, the effect secured through the use of colored crepe paper being accentuated by colored lights. A dropped ceiling effect secured through the use of nylon parachuting completed the decoration.

Faith Gardner was an attractive queen and her attendants; Margaret Howarth of Oroville, Mary Wall of Yuba City, Pat Dermody of Grass Valley and Mary Lynn Abbott of Chico were likewise charming.

Diminutive attendants of the queen, little two and three year olds in formal gowns and tuxedos drew a big hand from the crowd. They were Barbara Ann Fife, Richard Stoddard, Sharon Barrow, Brian Brink, Marilyn Moore, Lyman Coe, Karen Scott and Gary Fife.

The floor show followed the Queen presentation and the All Star orchestra played for general dancing till 1 P.M.

#### **Bicentennial Ball 1776 - 1976**

The ball celebrating the 200 years of the founding of our nation was held Oct. 18, 1975 in the cultural hall of the Gridley Stake Center. A colonial theme was accented in decorations and the Stake Presidency; Pres. Steven H. Jensen, 1st Counselor Lowell R. Tingey, 2nd Counselor Gary C. Jenkins and all High Council members and their wives were all in colonial costume. Most of those attending entered into the spirit of the occasion and came in costume.





Ray E. Stewart



Dorothy L. Fife

## Promised Valley

Music by

CRAWFORD GATES

Book and Lyrics by

ARNOLD SUNDBGAARD

Presented by

GRIDLEY STAKE M. I. A.

of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Two Performances

FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1961

and

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1961

8:30 P. M.

GRIDLEY STAKE AUDITORIUM

Gridley, California

## "STRONGHEART"

By CECIL B. DEMILLE

Presented by

The Gridley M. I. A.

Tuesday, April 3 - 4

—at—

VETERANS' MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM  
CHICO, CALIFORNIA

Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, New York

Benefit of

CAMP NA WA KWA—BOY SCOUT SUMMER CAMP

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

TAYLOR, A Sophomore	Austin Powers
ROSS, A Freshman	Evon Pryde
TOMMIE REED, A grind	Philip Ferrin
THORNE, Sells the game	Kenneth Taylor
SKINNER, A Man About Town	Carl Hagberg
FRANK NELSON, A Senior	Eugene Brundford
DICK LIVINGSTON, A Junior	Clon Spaulding
BILLY SUNDBGAARD, Senior by Courtesy	William Fife
ST. RONGHEART, The Indian	Leslie Pryde
MRS. NELSON, Frank's Mother	Mrs. Geo. Tully
DOROTHY NELSON, Frank's Sister	Mrs. Florence Barrow
MOLLY LIVINGSTON, Dick's Sister	Mildred Ferrin
BETTY, A friend of Dorothy's	Noema Beemwell
MAUD, A friend of Dorothy's	Mildred Price
BUCKLEY, A Coach	Ferril Turnbaugh
JOHN, A Butler	Elmer Smith
NASH, One of the team	Kleud Andersen
FARLEY, Manager of the other team	S. Hognane
BLACK EAGLE, Indian Messenger	Carl Powers
Prompter	Mrs. Marie Little
Director	Mrs. Dorothy Fife

### DANCING GIRLS

Mildred Price, Emily Gageas, La Prial Turnbaugh, Beulah Tully, Alice Turnbaugh  
Mildred Ferrin, Myrtle Beemwell, Noema Beemwell

Music furnished by the "Rose City Orchestra" of Chico  
Howard Bass, Director



**"Five on a Honeymoon" - Dan Hillesheim, Analee Carlin [Wiser], Mary Clements, Ray Clements, Rodney Bushman.**



**"GridleyFirst Ward Variety Show" - Bill Dukes, Eugene Higgins, Jerry Hillesheim, Jess Chandler.**



Mary Ann Jenkins

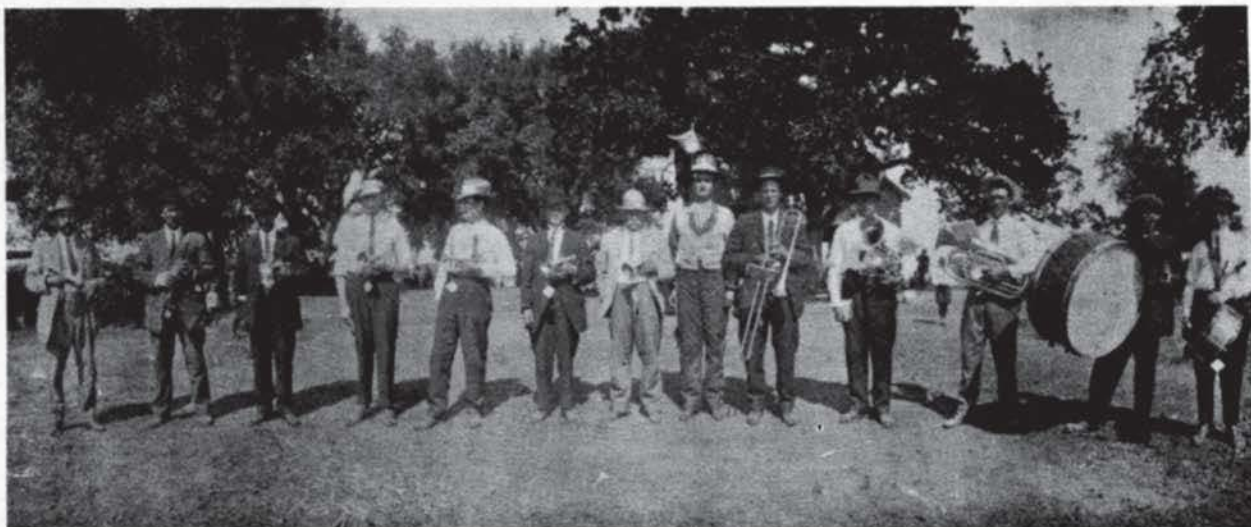


"Heritage of Love" - Pryde Boys and Lake Girls. Girls: Susan Horst, Peggy Nason, Robin Little, Michelle Rudd, Cynthia Richins. Boys: Gary Jenkins, Matt McDowell, Ron Whitaker, Corey Barfus, Keven Rudd.



"Heritage of Love" - The Cole Family: George - Bob Cunningham; Julia - Analee Carlin Wiser; Lewis - Joe Engle; James - Steven Stewart; Elizabeth - Jody Hilmer; Arthur - Derek Fieth.





Mormon Brass Band, July 24, 1915. L to R: George Wright, Joe Hansen, Thomas Schow, Ellis Johnson, Ray E. Stewart, Boyd H. Todd, Ras C. Rasmussen, Samuel Sandusky, George Losser, Charles E. Swan, Wm. C. Scott [Bass Drum] Art Carlson.



Alice Cole Carlin



Gridley First Ward Choir 1975 Back Row: unknown, Susie Farnsworth, Sister Agle, Maxine Delaney, Katie Cameron, Gloria Quist, Gwen Bushman, Analee Carlin Wiser. Middle Row - Emily Barrow, Lillian Jenkins, Olive Johns, Mabel Fife Roberts, Clifford Carlin, Bill Dukes, Eugene Higgins, John Bushman. Front Row - Charlotte Davis, Maureen Sannar, Jennie Sheets, Grace Thorpe, Alice Carlin, Ray Sannar, Jesse Chandler, Howard Sannar.



Gridley Ward MIA Male Chorus - Gold and Green Ball - Memorial Hall Feb. 2 and 3, 1950. Front row L to R - James Fife, Jesse Chandler, Ray Sannar, Orvil Sannar, Harvey Coe, Howard Sannar, Bill Stoddard, Russell Burdick, unidentified, Calvin Fife. Back row - unidentified, Bill Carlin, Ronald Brown, Donald Farnworth, Randy Fife, Jack Nielson, Kenneth Bate, Robert Fife, Loren Stoddard.





Etta Swan Todd, Stake Organist



Dr. Frank W. Asper gave the first organ concert



**ONE OF THE FIRST GOLD AND GREEN  
BALLS IN GRIDLEY**

Queen - Phoebe Price - Attendants, Etta Swan  
[Todd] & Roseta Williams - Train Bearers,  
Elaine Little [Mich] & Barbara Williams



**The first Stake Gold and Green Ball**





1938 Gridley Stake Gold and Green Ball - L to R - George Triplett and Afton Johnson of Yuba City, Wesley Tolley and Mary Woodard of Gridley. Kenneth Weiner and June Walters to Corning. First Lady, Leah Ellsworth of Yuba City and Carl Jensen of Gridley. Lydia Peterson and Leslie Robertson of Oroville. Fay Lewis and Bennett Nason of Grass Valley. Donna Jensen and Don Johns of Gridley.



1940 Gold and Green Ball - L to R - Annabelle Turner, Helen Joe Fife, Marjorie Taylor, Arlene Jensen, Ethel Martin, Marie Carlin [stage design] Vera Johnson, LaVerne Ferrin, Marvis Jensen, Marcella Wise. Frank Robertson Ilo Tolley, Douglas Johns, Paul Smith, Bob Johnson, Doyle Jensen, Carl Jensen, Robert Fife [floor show] and Lorin Wise.



1945 Gold and Green Ball - Theme "Roses from the South" Queen - Mabel Fife [McDowell], Attendants; Delia Stewart, Nellie Burdick, Dancers; Noble Hepworth, Glenna Walton, Jean Farr, Ellen Jensen, Ira Jensen, Verda Burbank, Robert and Marvis Fife, Gwendolyn Bushman, Jean and Merrill Orme.





1947 Gold and Green Ball - Top row - Myrna Lee Dunning, Donna Davenport, Jeannie Tolley, unknown. Bottom row - Lyman Coe, Marilyn Moore, Karen Scott, Rick Stoddard, Barbara Fife, Brian Brink, Gary Fife.



Centennial Year, 1947 - Theme of Gold and Green Ball





Elaborate Memorial Hall Decorations 1947



Elaborate Memorial Hall Decorations 1950



Gold & Green Ball Program



Stoddard Brothers playing at a Gold & Green  
Ball 1949 - Eugene, Bill & Loren Stoddard





Receiving line for the Bicentennial Ball  
 Pres. Gary C. Jenkins - Mary Ann Jenkins  
 Rodney Sroufe - Gwen Sroufe



Robert L. Fife, Musician

Very few programs have been put on in the last 50 years that did not have "Bob" at the piano or behind the scenes. He is one of the stalwarts in the music of the Gridley area.



"Promised Valley"

The eight parsons sons - Greg Carlin, Brent Little, Kim Pitt, David Fife, Dennis Fife, Craig Little, Dan and Tom Hillesheim.



## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### GENEALOGY

The Church here has always sponsored and encouraged genealogical endeavors, however, it was not until the 1940's that instruction in research and how to go about it was incorporated into the program. The practical aspect was spearheaded by the Ward Genealogical Committee with Eugene Stoddard as chairman.

A survey of ward members was made to determine what material was available locally and could be used on a co-operative basis. It was also learned that genealogical books could be borrowed thru the County Library. Sylvia Hendrix handled the ordering and Ludeen Waters was active in determining what material would be helpful. Thru this arrangement, numerous books were ordered and circulated among local genealogy enthusiasts.

Under the direction of Chairman Jess Jensen, committee members were instructed to go to the homes of members to help them organize their genealogical material and give assistance and suggestions for furthering the work.

From this grew a desire to create a genealogy library in the ward. Donations for the project were solicited and numerous fund raising projects were sponsored, bake sales, "dime a dip dinners", etc. Jess Jensen was still chairman during most of this fund raising activity and Ludeen Waters was very active in the acquisition of material. Most of the books were purchased second hand. Not only to save money but also to obtain material pertaining to earlier periods of time and books out of print.

With the establishment of the library, Verland Richins was called to be librarian. He was instrumental in securing the donation of Wm. H. Evan's collection of over 1000 books for the library. With the assistance of interested persons, the library, housed in one of the rooms of the chapel, was available for use by patrons.

The microcard reader was the first equipment purchased. The object was to make more records available at minimum cost. Published genealogical material could be purchased on microcard at a fraction of the cost of the same material in book form. Microfilm and microfiche readers have since been purchased.

In time the Ward library was incorporated into a stake library and came to be known as a major source of genealogical material north of the Bay area. The Sunday School Genealogy Lesson Manual for 1964 in its chapter on Genealogical Records in Historical Society, Public and LDS Stake Libraries mentions the Gridley Stake Library as having come to the attention of the author, Howard S. Bennion. The larger ones were described but only eight LDS district or stake libraries were mentioned.

In August of 1966, Ben Bloxham of the Genealogical Society in Salt Lake visited the library and finding it well organized with good priesthood leaders, adequate financial provisions and suitable facilities, recommended it as a branch library. Sept. 7, 1966, the Gridley library was officially notified of its acceptance as a branch of the main library in Salt Lake City.

This extended the research possibilities far beyond anything previously available. Most of the vast collection of microfilmed records in Salt Lake could be borrowed for a small fee to cover shipping and handling.

When use of the bishop's storehouse, located near the chapel, was discontinued in 1968 and after due negotiations, the library was granted permission to use the building. After necessary remodeling, the library was moved to its present location. Many faithful and devoted assistants have worked to keep the library in operation on a regular basis.

Richard McDowell was the second librarian and did much to improve the library and organize its operation on a business like basis. With the inclusion of the genealogy library as a part of the meetinghouse library, (though it was operated at a separate location), Vera Anstead was designated as Assistant Librarian in charge of genealogy and has spent many years of devoted service in this capacity.

Jean Jackson began teaching genealogy classes in 1957. Classes were held at least once a week thereafter on the practical aspects of "how" to do research.

As various programs emerged from the Genealogical Society, Gridley families made a good showing in such projects as the "Pedigree Referral Service" in 1964, a surname and locality finding tool (now outdated but still available in the library), and the first "Four Generation Program," also available in the library.



Since 1967, genealogical seminars have been held each year at BYU. Members of the Gridley Wards have attended most of them. Consequently, the quality of Gridley's genealogical research classes have improved and expanded as instructors received inspiration as well as knowledge from this source.

A number of genealogy seminars for the general membership of the Gridley Stake and anyone interested in genealogical research have been held here. The first one was planned to stimulate interest as well as give instruction. It began Friday evening with a big dinner followed by a musical production, "The Eternal Family," written especially for the occasion. The various stages of the eternal journey were portrayed by Gary and Sharon Little, Richard Tippetts, Ray Sannar, Howard and Maurine Sannar, Eugene Higgins, Gloria Quist, the chorus and dancers. The main speaker for the evening was Norman E. Wright, BYU professor in the genealogy department. Classes were held all day Saturday with the BYU guests, Norman E. Wright and David L. Pratt and local instructors.

Others were held in 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978. Jean Jackson was the very competent director and organizer of the seminars under the sponsorship of priesthood leaders. Guest speakers from BYU, the Genealogical Dept. in Salt Lake and Sacramento as well as local talent gave much practical and helpful instruction in research methods and sources.

In 1976, a Stake Genealogy Committee was created under the direction of Norman Thompson, Stake High Counselor in charge of genealogy. The purpose was to stimulate genealogy throughout the Stake by training leaders, instructors, record examiners, and anyone connected with genealogy. Members of the committee were:- Jean Jackson, Reva Tupen, Beverly Clements, Dorothy Armstrong, Howard Hall, William S. Dukes, Barbara Dukes and Wanda Scott. Thru their efforts, a series of detailed lesson outlines, material and visual aids were made available to teachers, a service not previously available. In addition to a vigorous program for training those in responsible ward genealogical positions, they organized the later seminars and did much of the instructing.

With the introduction of the present "Four Generation" and "Extraction" programs, this committee was discontinued since most of the local members were absorbed into the new program.

The Gridley Stake was accepted in the "Extraction Program" in 1978 with William S. Dukes as director and Richard McDowell as trainer in the Gridley area. The first extractors were called in the latter part of that year but actual extraction of baptisms and marriages from Mexican parish registers did not get underway until March of 1979. Those from the Gridley Wards involved in this work, in addition to the director and trainer are:- Carl Hagberg, June Hagberg, Wanda Scott, Yvonne Quist, Reva Tupen, Donna Smith, Charlotte Wark, Barbara Dukes, Grace Thorpe, Wanda Hodges, Ludeen Waters, Jean Jackson, Grant Quist, and Gloria Quist. They share the genealogy library building and devote from 10 to 17 hours each week to this work.

## SCOUTING

Lono Chesley of Biggs was reported as the first scoutmaster of Troop 14 in the Gridley Branch. William S. Fife Jr. was the first Eagle Scout in the Gridley LDS area and the third in the Lassen Area Council. Lassen Area Council served California north of Sacramento. Bill was presented his Eagle award at a ceremony in Bidwell Park in Feb. 1928 by Chief Harry Ogle. Lassen Area's summer camp was called "Camp Na Wa Kwa" and was located at LaPorte.

## LDS Eagle Scouts from Gridley

Reed Jensen  
Larry Carlin  
Darwin Stewart  
Robert Bassett  
David L. Fife  
Darrell Sroufe  
David Hopkins  
Douglas Hopkins  
Gerald Christensen  
Douglas Schneider  
Edson Smith  
Bradley Spencer  
Mike McClung  
Kris Cowan  
Roger McClung  
Russell Curtis  
Robert Curtis

## Silver Beaver Awards:

Rueben Jensen  
Dimon Stewart  
Carl Hagberg  
Alvin Stewart



**SILVER BEAVER SCOUTING AWARDS**



**Ruben Jensen**



**Dimon Stewart**



**Carl Hagberg**



**Alvin Stewart**





**Liberty Ward Relief Society Plays 1940 - Back Row: Fredonia Stewart, Elaine Little, Charlotte Davis, Nellie Richins, Helen Doering, Ida Davis, Minerva Scott Hess, Grace Thorpe, unknown, unknown, Virginia Sannar, Verdine Garrett Stafford, Jenevieve Garrett, Amy Timothy. Front Row: Matilda Stewart, Bessie Sannar, Katie Cameron, Laura Richins, June Hagberg, Carrie Scott, Edna Richins, Bessie Rose Scott.**



**Gridley and Liberty Wards combined Relief Society about 1948. Alice Carlin, President; Eulalia Jensen, 1st counselor; Helen Joe Stoddard, 2nd counselor. Front row - Pearl Tolley, Sister Farnsworth, Pansy Gardner, Janet Myers, Ethel Smith, Yvonne Quist, Barbara Price, Myrtle Clyde, Fayette Sorenson, Edna Richins, Helen Joe Stoddard, Alice Carlin, Eulalia Jensen. Middle Rows - Bessie Sannar, Bernice Farnsworth, Lillis Jones, Hannah Gattiker, Gertrude Scott, Modean Hepworth, Elba Quist, Maude Rice, Fay Lettner, Nellie Richins, Mary Little, Dora Davenport, unknown, Ludeen Waters. Back rows - Zelma Walton, Rowena Rice, Elta Kelly, Grace Thorpe, Dorothy Fife, Rachael Bate, Katie Cameron, Martha Stewart.**



Thursday July 25, 1935

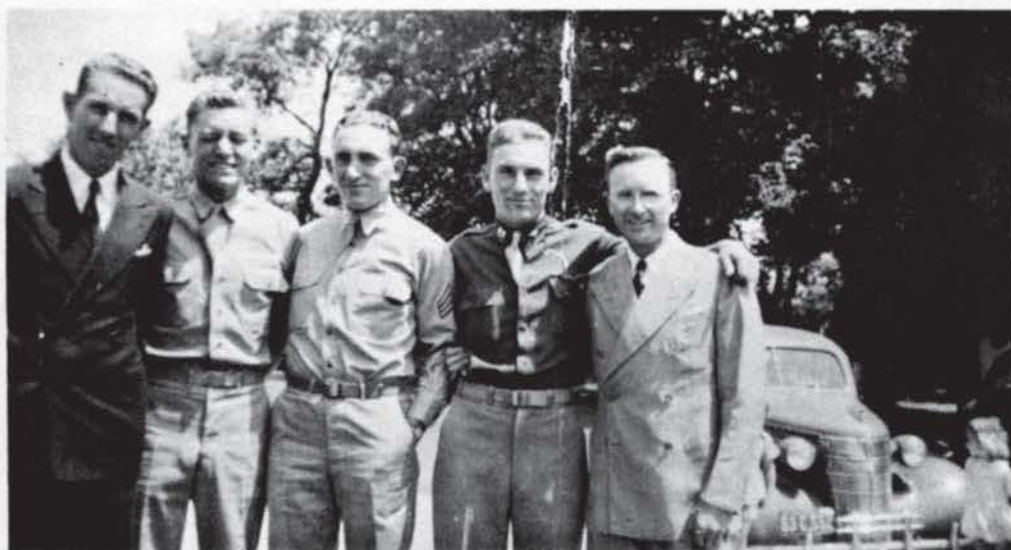
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THE BEE'S SUPERIOR CALIFORNIA NEWS

When Gridley Mormons Observed Pioneer Day



Members of the Mormon faith to the number of several thousand from Gridley, Orville, Yuba City, Nevada City, Corning and Colusa assembled in Gridley yesterday to observe Pioneer Day, the eighty-eighth anniversary of the arrival of the Mormons in the Great Salt Lake Valley of Utah. A parade with entries reminiscent of the equipment and types of people who made the overland trek from the Missouri River to Salt Lake was a feature. The pictures show some of the participants in that and the sham battle that climaxed the parade. Top, the covered wagons drawn in a circle in the Gridley Ball Park, as sometimes were those of the participants' forebears as a means of repelling Indian attacks. The mounted Indians are seen circling the wagons during the sham battle. Lower left, Misses Alice and LaFried Turnbaugh of Gridley, shown in their pioneer costumes as they appeared in the parade; lower right, one of the handcarts similar to those used by some of the Mormon immigrants to transport their property across the plains.



Ward Musicians 1940 - Jack Nielson, Johnny Campbell, Bill Stoddard, Loren Stoddard, Bob Fife.



Pioneer Day Celebration 1936



Mrs. Wayne Craddock, Barbara Ann Turnbough, Delores Richins, Anita Todd and Etta Todd.



Dimon Stewart as an Indian Squaw



In 1965, the Beehive girls made lap robes and gave them to the Oroville Hospital. Front row - Leaders, Charlotte Davis, Gloria Quist, and Verda Cheney. Middle Row - Melody Grames, Jackie Eversole, Tawnia Barrow, and Karen Averett. 3rd row- Linda Little, Janet Dalton and Patty Bartschi



Front Row: Tracy Jensen, Minnie Webb, Emily Barrow, Elda Kelly. Back Row : Rena Smith, Grace Thorpe, Katie Cameron, Lyda Horn, Alta Farnsworth, Olive Johns, Charlotte Davis, Mary [Mamie] Little.





The newly constructed Bishops Storehouse just east of Stake Center. Ned Davis and family members had just completed stocking shelves. Carolee Sannar holding son, Charles; Jean Dorhofer, holding Justene; Eva Thorpe, Ned, Nedra Davis, Charlotte and Vickey Thorpe in front.



Bishops Storehouse - Completed Apr. 1959



Genealogy Extractor Reva Tupin at Microfilm Reader.



Gridley Wards Extractors - Front row: Reva Tupin, Yvonne Quist. Second Row: Charlotte Wark, Ludeen Waters, Gloria Quist, Barbara Dukes. 3rd Row: Wanda Hodges, Jean Jackson, June Hagberg, Donna Smith, Grace Thorpe. 4th Row: Wanda Scott, Grant Quist, Bill Dukes, Carl Hagberg, Richard McDowell.



Gridley Branch Genealogy Library





First Gridley Stake Primary Presidency  
Pres. Mabel Fife (sitting) Gertrude  
Scott and Susie Farnworth, Councilors  
and Katie Cameron, Sec.



Gridley Medical Center



## ATHLETICS

In the Gridley Herald for Wednesday Feb. 15, 1967 the following article appeared: The Gridley LDS Second Ward basketball team won the Zone 4 championship when they defeated Mount Rose of Reno, 70 to 60, in the final game of the zone tournament held at Sacramento Saturday night. Zone 4 includes the northern California and Reno regions.

Gridley's Steve Squires was named on the tournament Most Valuable Player after being voted a member of the 5-player All Tourney team.

The local team will leave Friday for Salt Lake where they will compete in the All-Church Basketball Tournament, which will start Monday, Feb. 20.

The Second Ward five started on its way to the zone title two weeks ago when they won the Gridley Stake championship, defeating Chico Second Ward 118 - 48.

Reggie Dewsnup, who was flown from BYU Friday in order to be able to participate in the zone championship, paced the Gridleyans to the Stake title with 24 counters. Brent Little tallied 21, John Borrowman, 20; Mike Henry, player-coach, 16; Jerry Henry, 14; and Bruce Adams, 12.

Gridley Second Ward reached the finals with wins over Fresno and Stockton wards.

Scoring in the championship game was as follows; Borrowman 3; Squires 30; Dewsnup 21; Little 8; M. Henry 6; and Adams 2.

### A BASKETBALL DYNASTY

Between 1972 and 1977 the Gridley I Ward established a sports dynasty that brought the ward much recognition in church athletic circles. The senior basketball team from the ward won the Stake, Regional and Multi-regional Championships for five consecutive years. The team placed high in the final standings of the West-Coast Area Tournament each year in both team position and sportsmanship. They won the West Coast Area Sportsmanship trophy in 1975. They came very close to winning the team trophy in 1977.

Many different players competed on the teams. There was a small group which seemed to be there every year, however. One interesting aspect was that the bishop of the ward was twice selected on the West-Coast Area All-Star team (5 players from the entire area.) Bishop Gary Little was selected in 1974 and Bishop Mike Henry was selected in 1977.

Some of the players who participated with the number of years indicated in parenthesis were: Gary Little(5), Mike Henry (5), Darcy Wingo (4), Bert Nielson (3), Gary Jenkins (3), Craig Morrison (2), Keith Orme (3), Jason Tilby (3), Weldon Quist (2), Bud Christiansen (2), Jerry Sannar (2), John Walton (2), Darrel Parrot (2), Robert McCall (3), Kirby Smith (2), Lorin Wiser (1), Gil Correa (1), Tom Vedo (1), Jack Doyle (1), Doug Dalton (1), Greg Herting (1), Chuck Martin (1), Reggie Dewsnup (1), Richard Tippetts (2).

### Gridley III Ward

With the formation of the Gridley III Ward many members were holding two or more jobs. It seemed we might be short of athletic ability. The Junior team struggled along. In 1977, the Senior team went to Regional playoffs, they played hard in a double elimination tournament. By outplaying Gridley II Ward twice in the 2 final games, they won regionals and were eligible to go to Stockton as a 1st place team. Hampered by injuries, they were eliminated in the second day of play.

In 1978, the Veteran team came on strong again and went to Region again - winning one and then being eliminated in the next two games.

The young men have had trouble getting going - but easily won the Stake competition in 1980 and went to Region this year in Chico. They met strong opposition the first night and ended up with consolation.

### Girls Sports

In years past and present girls in the Gridley Stake have been enthusiastic about sports. Volleyball, basketball and baseball have always been some of the more favorite sports.

Memory recalls trips to as far away as Fresno, Sacramento, Stockton, and Oakland, where Gridley Stake participated in baseball and basketball tournaments. On several of these occasions Gridley Ward has won in Stake competition and gone to represent the Stake in Regional competition.

For approximately 6 years or more in a row Gridley Ward won Regional basketball and baseball titles. Many times they also brought home the sportsmanship trophy.

The girls from the Gridley Stake became well known for their athletic ability. Teams were invited to compete against various girls' school teams, and on one occasion Gridley Ward was challenged by the Fallon Nevada



Ward basketball team. Fallon traveled to the old Sycamore gym where Gridley barely squeaked by in a win by 2 points in the last 3 seconds. Gridley 1st then traveled to Fallon where they easily defeated Fallon there.

In more recent years the girls program has been limited to Stake competition. All of the Gridley Wards have taken their turns winning 1st place, the sportsmanship trophy or both. Many girls have participated in this program. I'm sure all would agree that thru the sports program they developed their athletic ability, but most importantly they developed a bond between each other and their coaches.

The Gridley area has from the beginning been active in softball and basketball. The competition has been challenging and we mention a few of the champion teams.

In 1927 the West Gridley Champs took all of the honors. Most of these young men were from Liberty Ward, plus a couple of non-members. Front L to R. - Laverne Wolff, Butter Cole, Other Shirley, Orin Borrowman Back L to R. - Harry Sannar, Roscoe Jones, Bert Jones, Walter Little, Ben Shirley



Gridley Second Ward at All Church Tourney, Salt Lake City, Utah 1967.

Back row - Gary Little, Reggie Dewsnap, Steven Squires, Bruce Adams, John Borrowman, Vere Gardner. Front row - Jerry Henry, Brent Little, Bill Brown, Michael Henry.





Gridley Second Ward had an unusually successful Veterans Basketball team in 1979. Members of the team ranged in age from 30 to 57. The team took first place in the Sacramento Multi-region Tournament, and also the first place Sportsmanship trophy. Team members left to right. Back row - Mel Dewsnup, Brent Little, Gary Sannar, Gary Little, Jay Oldroyd, Lorin Wiser, Dave Hughes, Jerry Gocken. Front row - LeRoy Smith, Blackie Brogdon, Jerry Henry, Gerald Quist, Vere Gardner, Darcy Wingo, Wayne Thomas.





**Basketball Dynasty 1972 - 1977**

1977 Team - Back Row: Bert Nielson, Gary Little, unknown, Darcy Wingo, Michael Henry, Dick Tippetts. Front Row: Robert McCall, Darrel Parrot, Kirby Smith, Gilbert Correa, Lorin Wiser.



**CHICO REGION, LDS 1977 SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT**

Baseball season means hard work, 110 degree weather, and lots of fun. The Gridley Second Ward baseball team in 1977 took second place in Chico Region LDS Softball tournament, held in Oroville. Team members pictured from left to right are: Back row - Gilbert Correa, Larry Singleton, Jerry Henry, Gary Sannar, Dick Campbell, Mike Mitchell, Lorin Wiser, Lowell Hagberg, Chris Dewsnup. Front Row - Vere Gardner, Melvin Dewsnup, Dale Ward, Gerald Quist, Jerry Gocken, Mike McLean, Roy Stoudt.



Gridley First Ward Juniors - Gridley Stake Champs - Front Row: Jeff Keller, Charles Brock, Mark McLean, Doug Schnieder. Back Row: Mike McLean, unknown, Jeff Bushman, unknown.





Softball 1977 - Back Row: Mark McLean, Doug Arnold, Larry Waller, Bart Dalton, David Cone, Dave Hughes, Albert [Bud] Christenson. Front Row: Gary Jenkins, Bert Nielson, Norman Thompson, Norm DeBusk, Mike Greer, Darrel Parrott.

## STAKE AND WARD OFFICERS

### GRIDLEY CALIF. STAKE PRESIDENCIES

DATE SUSTAINED	PRESIDENT	1ST COUNSELOR	2ND COUNSELOR
Nov. 5, 1934	John C. Todd	John T. Nielson Jr.	Dimon A. Stewart
Nov. 5, 1950	Harry E. McClure	Loren A. Stoddard	Julius B. Papa
Apr. 19, 1951		Julius B. Papa	Wilbur F. Mills
Mar. 21, 1955	Julius B. Papa	Wilbur F. Mills	Leslie H. Nims
May 15, 1960		Leslie H. Nims	Eugene A. Barrow
Feb. 6, 1972	Steven H. Jensen	Lowell R. Tingey	Gary C. Jenkins
Nov. 7, 1979		Gary C. Jenkins	Ronald E. Faulkner

### STAKE CLERKS

Philip Ferrin  
Ned Davis  
Earl McDaniels

### STAKE HIGH PRIEST PRESIDENTS

John T. Nielson Sr.  
Adna Ferrin  
Everett T. Acor  
Joseph H. Tippets  
Raymond J. Richins  
Ezra C. Payne  
Orsen H. Taylor  
Milton Clark  
Grover Cameron  
Vearl Patten  
Julius B. Papa  
Steven H. Jensen

### STAKE PATRIARCHS

John T. Nielson Sr.  
W. Clifford Jensen  
Ezra C. Payne  
George Hughes  
Raymond Lloyd  
Harvey Lee Smith

## BRANCH PRESIDENTS AND BISHOPS

### Gridley

George Cole  
George W. Tolley  
John T. Nielson Sr.  
E. O. Clark  
James M. Pryde  
Randolph W. Fife  
W. Clifford Jensen  
Howard C. Sannar  
R. Wilford Quist  
Royden J. Walton  
Steven H. Jensen  
Richard J. Tippets  
Gary W. Little  
Michael R. Henry

### Gridley II

Howard C. Sannar  
Donald S. Fife  
Junior Dewsnup  
Richard W. McDowell  
Grant B. Probst  
Jerry W. Henry

### Gridley III

Ronald H. Sannar

### Liberty

Joseph Davis  
Ray E. Stewart  
Frank Dewsnup  
Grover Cameron  
Omer S. Barrow  
Walter Scott  
Ralph Richins



# HIGH COUNCILORS 1934 - 1980

John T. Nielson, Sr.  
 James M. Pryde  
 J. Ellis Turnbough  
 Edmond Z. Taylor  
 Charles C. Sannar  
 Wm. Henry Matthews  
 Vasco Call  
 Walter Scott  
 Langley A. Moore  
 Vernon Lee Gale  
 William H. Hepworth  
 B. Farland Johnson  
 Everett T. Acor  
 Ray E. Stewart  
 Harry E. McClure  
 Alma C. Mortenson  
 Bernell J. Edwards  
 Arthur J. Godfrey  
 Grover Cameron  
 Ervin S. McDonald  
 James E. Alley  
 Joseph H. Tippets  
 Eugene J. Neff  
 Raymond J. Richins  
 A. John Fox  
 Wallace E. Ferrin  
 Glen H. Boyd  
 Angus C. Fox  
 Ira M. Jensen  
 Vearl Patten  
 Bernard N. Taylor  
 Waldon A. Barney  
 Noel C. Stevenson  
 Milton J. Snowball  
 Benjamin A. Leatham  
 Drexell E. Tolley  
 Omer N. Barrow  
 Leslie H. Nims  
 Thomas L. Carter  
 Charles L. Rollins  
 Elwood J. Stentzel  
 W. Clifford Jensen  
 Sylven Godfrey  
 R. Wilford Quist  
 Merrill S. Orme  
 Robert L. Fife \*

Virgil D. Atkinson  
 B. Neil Johnson  
 George H. Richins  
 Gustave Stentzel  
 Walter G. Little  
 Howard C. Sannar  
 Raymond H. White \*  
 Harry H. Smith  
 E. Merrill Kempton  
 Linward O. Kendall  
 Paul E. Bartschi  
 Dellis B. Johnson  
 Eugene A. Barrow \*  
 George B. Ogden  
 L. Glen Sims  
 Jack R. Seipert  
 Howard G. Hall \*  
 W. Scott Kuhn  
 Howard T. Garrick  
 Grant B. Probst  
 J. Philip Quist  
 Robert D. Skidmore  
 Donald E. Jones  
 Harvey L. Smith  
 Bart L. Blair  
 Milson Clark  
 Austin L. Allred  
 Richard W. McDowell \*  
 Delmer F. Howell  
 R. Dale Thacker  
 Richard J. Schroder  
 Lloyd J. Cope  
 Gary W. Little \*  
 Larry D. Rudd  
 Alonzo A. Plumb  
 C. Ray Clements  
 Kenneth L. Staley  
 Harold L. Richins  
 John W. Warner  
 Robert J. Sellers  
 Claude R. Thomas  
 Robert L. Morgan  
 Hal J. Killpack \*  
 Jack M. Williford \*  
 Lowell R. Tingey

Junior H. Dewsnap  
 G. Robert Standing  
 Ronald H. Sannar  
 J. Garth Fairbanks  
 Anthon H. Turley  
 Robin C. Hagberg  
 Ellis L. Matthews  
 Laurence S. Adair  
 Gary C. Jenkins  
 E. Donald Fossum  
 Rodney J. Sroufe  
 Dean V. Richins  
 Lenard A. Jensen  
 Dean S. Kelly  
 Ray E. Lindsey  
 Michael R. Henry  
 O. Hugo Jenkins  
 Harry A. Wesche  
 Clyde R. Smith  
 Gerald W. Quist  
 Robert L. Holley  
 N. Larry Agle  
 Royden J. Walton  
 Norman R. Thompson  
 Jerry C. Sannar  
 Lynn E. Townsend  
 Learon C. Farnsworth  
 Blaine R. Russell  
 Keith M. Orme  
 William Hill  
 C. Ramon Ludkenga  
 Ned Davis  
 Homer Wentz  
 Bernie Engle  
 Steve Nebeker  
 Arthur G. Rahn  
 Steven Fales  
 Frank Clegg  
 Joel Bisson  
 Michael Davis  
 Ted Beck

\* Have served twice

STAKE PRESIDENTS



John C. Todd



Harry E. McClure



Julius Papa



Steven H. Jensen



GRIDLEY WARD BISHOPS



Randolph W. Fife



W.C. Jensen



Howard C. Sannar

LIBERTY WARD BISHOPS



Walter Scott



Omer S. Barrow



Ralph Richins



**GRIDLEY FIRST WARD**



**Wilford Quist**



**Royden Walton**



**Steven H. Jensen**

**GRIDLEY FIRST WARD**



**Richard Tippetts**



**Gary Little**



**Michael Henry**



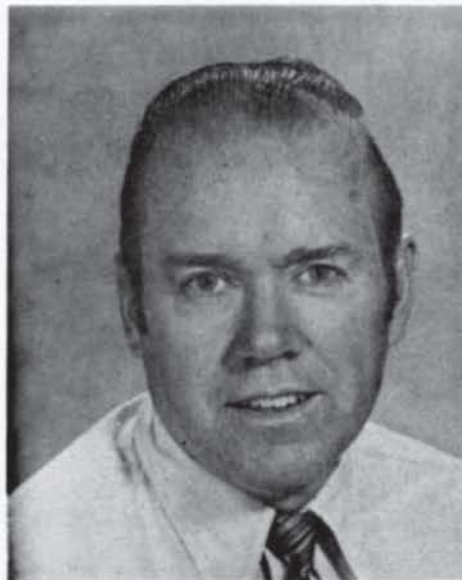
**GRIDLEY SECOND WARD BISHOPS**



**Donald S. Fife**



**Junior Dewsnup**



**Richard McDowell**

**GRIDLEY SECOND & THIRD WARD BISHOPS**



**Grant Probst**



**Ronald Sannar - Third Ward**



**Jerry Henry**



EARLY BRANCH PRESIDENTS



George Cole



GEORGE W. TOLLEY



Ray Stewart



Grover Cameron

## THE RECOLLECTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE GRIDLEY AND LIBERTY BRANCHES

### CONTRIBUTORS

Sara Andrews, daughter of Otis L. Terry  
Orvil Barrow, son of Samuel A. Barrow  
Katie Cameron, daughter of William Price  
Alice Carlin, daughter of George Cole  
George Dewsnap, son of Hyrum Dewsnap  
Emma Dreyer, daughter of Joseph C. Williams  
Adrian Gee, daughter of Other T. Shirley  
Eliza (Lyda) Horn, daughter of Hyrum Farnworth  
George M. Larsen (Journal)  
Mamie Little, daughter of William Price  
Walter G. Little, son of Frank A. Little  
Laura Richins, daughter of Hyrum Dewsnap  
Ben Shirley, son of Other T. Shirley  
Dimon Stewart, son of Ray E. Stewart  
Artie Williams, daughter of William Price

An important section to any local history of an institution such as the local Church of Latter-Day Saints must be the personal recollections of the observations and the experiences of those who played a large part in the beginnings of that institution. Such narratives, taken on tapes, taken from diaries, or recorded from oral interviews, give a personal touch and flavor more authentic than the dry recording of facts of history. The personal hopes and dreams, the hardships suffered, and the overcoming of obstacles, as told in these narratives, reflect the strong faith of these church members, both in their religion and their own powers to persist and conquer their new environment.

The narratives reflect life when it was simpler, but sterner, possibly, than our lives as we live them today. Sickness, premature death, floods, crop failures, poverty, unfriendly neighbors, drought, and isolation from their former homes in the bosom of the church were all endured.

The examples shown to our younger generation by the lives of these older members hopefully will sustain the young in their faith - giving them the same strength to persist, persevere, and hold fast to the faith - in equal degree to that maintained by the contributors to this narrative.

The original settlement of Mormons in the Gridley area came about as a result of the California Irrigated Land Company's promo-

tional activities. Ben Shirley and his sister, Adrian Gee, expressed it this way, "This was the time when they were opening the big canal to the river to put irrigation water on all this land. It had been nothing but grain fields and cattle because there wasn't water on it. When they could take water from the canal, then this land became very good for crops.

"The real estate people, knowing the Mormons were good colonizers, came to Idaho. They felt the Mormons would be the best people to do the colonization, so they brought the men to Gridley."

It was November 22, 1906 that the first group of Latter Day Saints, Hyrum Dewsnap, C.L. French, Samuel Smith, O.T. Shirley, Henry Losser, Mathew White, W. Simmons and the George Cole family arrived in Gridley. They were accompanied by Mr. Frieling who represented the land company.

The men were satisfied that this was a good place to settle and proceeded to do so. Alice Carlin reports, "He (her father, George Cole) lost his health in Idaho and that is why he wanted to come to Gridley. He wanted to get his boys on a ranch. He thought they needed to get to a place where they could work. The California Irrigated Land Company paid the family's way out here and also paid for them to stay in a hotel for a week. My family never intended to go back to Idaho. That is why my father brought the entire family with him."

The reaction of O.T. Shirley is told by Ben Shirley and Adrian Gee, "Father came down first. When he saw the land he wanted to stay. He was a farmer and knew how to farm. He stayed and did carpenter work or whatever he could find. Mother and the family came a little later."

Laura Richins comments, "The men came to look things over first. That was in November 1906 but it was February 1907 when their wives and families arrived. Our family was among the first to come to Gridley from Rexburg, Idaho. Father sold his store and 80 acre farm. When he first came to Gridley, he took an option on the Gridley Hotel and ran it for about two years. We ran it mostly as a family affair. My sisters and I worked in the dining room waiting on tables. Mother did a lot of the laundry. My brothers would meet the train with a little two wheel cart which they pushed over to the depot to haul baggage."

The mild climate and especially the oranges which grew here, left a lasting impression on



the new comers. From Alice Carlin we learn:- "My father, George Cole, moved here from Rexburg, Idaho. They were two days and two nights on the railway, arriving in Gridley at 8:00 P.M. on that November 22nd. It was snowing when they left Idaho and when they reached the slopes of the Sierra Nevada, they dropped down into sunshine, green trees, oranges, flowers, singing birds and beauty everywhere." From Ben Shirley and Adrian Gee:- "when we first came here as families, Papa had rented a small house in town. We had orange trees around us and it was the highlight of our lives to pick the oranges and eat them. We had never seen an orange tree until then." From Katie Cameron whose family arrived from Wellsville, Utah in March 1908:- "Our first home was on the West Liberty Road. When we arrived there were six orange trees loaded with ripe fruit. I ate oranges until 'my teeth were on edge.' " Artie Williams adds, "There was snow when we left Utah." Dimon Stewart:- "My family arrived in Gridley March 21, 1913. It seemed like heaven when we came down thru the Sierra Nevada into Roseville, seeing everything green and nice as we had a blizzard the day before we left Idaho. Over a foot of snow fell" And Lyda Horn who arrived in 1918 from Ashton, Idaho:- "When we first got to California, we had never seen oranges before. We got a big pan of oranges and had our picture taken to send back to Idaho."

The climate attracted the Joseph Williams Family. Emma Dreyer relates the circumstances, "Mother's parents, Niels and Carrie Sorenson and her brother Chris were living in Gridley. Mother's father became ill and she came out to see him. Mother suffered with arthritis and it felt so much better here that she stayed. My father sold his place and we arrived from Idaho Feb. 12, 1912.

The Barrow Family also came for health reasons. Lydia, wife of Samuel A. Barrow, suffered with hay fever and asthma. Her doctor advised moving to a more favorable climate.

However, the move was not without its hardships. Ben and Adrian continue, "The men's families arrived during the winter. Dad fixed tents with wooden floors and wood part way up the sides. These were up under the big oak trees on the ten acres Dad had selected. The family moved out there and lived in them until about April. There was lots of rain that year. It rained so hard at times it would come into the tents and we would have to sweep the water out."

The Williams family lived in tents for awhile, also. Emma Dreyer relates, "We had always had a nice home but when we arrived there were no houses to rent in Gridley and we lived in a tent on my uncle's place behind the McKinley School from February until in the summer when Father bought our place on Wilson Street.

In March of 1907, Gridley suffered from a real flood. Sara Andrews reports:- "Three days of hard rain and water from melting snow in the mountains raised the river to flood stage. The railroad tracks north of the Gridley depot were washed out letting the water into the Veatch Addition and making all of Parkside a lake."

We find in the Gridley Herald, Friday March 15, 1907:- "The rain that commenced last Friday continued thru Saturday, Sunday and Monday and induced Flood conditions in the northern part of the state. The Feather River rose very rapidly and by Monday morning the danger line had been reached.

"Bottom lands were under many feet of water and the flood was beginning to get uncomfortably close to the Butte Co. Canal. A group of people from Gridley went to the danger point ---." Efforts to control the water and avert flooding the city are then described, and, "At about 8 o'clock, the water reached the town, went over the old levee and soon the east side was under 3 feet of water. The current took out the tracks north of town and the northwest part of the city suffered a flooding of from one to two feet and in places the water reached a depth of four feet. The part of town on the west side (of the railroad), south of Hazel Street was high and dry."

Alice Carlin:- "My Dad told about the flood in his journal, 'March first, moved to Live Oak where we had rented a prune orchard. Monday it rained hard all day. In the evening we noticed water over the railroad tracks. We did not think much of it until about 9 o'clock we went to the door and saw the water was all around the house. The water was all over the bottom step and crawling up fast. In a few moments, the man across the alley came in carrying his wife. The water was in their house. They had four boys. They all came over. Our house was about the highest one in that part. Soon after this about a dozen Greek laborers burst into the house so we had a house full until daylight. It was a black night and rained incessantly. We watched the water crawl up the steps all night until by dawn, it had reached the last or top step and lacked just a little before being in the house. The men



rescued some of the pigs and chickens that were floating around in the water or swimming and put them in the back porch. The rest had to drown. The cow which furnished the milk for the twin babes was standing in water up to her sides. The water was ice cold. When daylight came I got on a horse and led the cow up to the Hampton's place in Live Oak. Then a man rowed a boat up to the door and took the rest up to the Hampton's. We stayed there two days and nights. By this time the water had receded until we were able to return home.' My father said he did not want to go thru anything like that again."

Ben Shirley and Adrian Gee:- "The Feather River was Flooding. A man on horseback came to tell us we would have to get to higher ground. There were only a few high spots around here and one of them was where Dad had his tents but we went to town, anyway."

George Dewsnap:- "Water came right up into Gridley. I would say there must have been about 500 people came into the hotel area around here. It was a high point. Other people found high ground on the Gridley Ridge knolls (southwest of Gridley). It was awful. We could look out from the top of the hotel and see the whole country. There was water everywhere. There were 'drummers' who came into town and couldn't leave because the railroad was out between Biggs and Gridley. Lumber yards floated away. If father hadn't been obligated as he was, we would have moved away from here. Well, it all receded and they started to build back again. Father said after that, 'We came here and we're not going to leave. We'll make the best of it.' Which we did and here we are today."

Most of the newcomers arrived by train. This is the account given by Orvil Barrow and is similar to others, "We came on the passenger train, except for Father and Omer. They came in the railroad car with our furniture, four head of horses and cow. The stock yard was on the north side of Spruce Street next to the railroad on the east. That is where they were unloaded."

"Sister Francis lived on Ohio Street behind what is now Bremer's Hardware. She took in roomers and we stayed with her until our home further north on Ohio Street was purchased from Ardley Miller's father. We had a barn and corral there for our animals." Animals in town was commonplace.

Katie Cameron gives us this insight into the appearance of the town of Gridley, "When we first came to Gridley in 1908, there were no paved streets anywhere. Even Hazel Street,

the main street of the town, was a dirt road. In winter the mud was deep and it was not easy to maneuver from a buggy to the sidewalk in long skirts without getting in the mud. In summer the dust was thick. For years, the city used a sprinkler wagon to dampen the streets to help keep the dust down. The downtown business district boasted cement sidewalks, however, and second story balconies or porches extended out over the sidewalks and gave some protection from the weather."

From Mamie Little we learn:- "Ray (Little) came here when he was sixteen, a freshman in high school. He was the first Mormon to go to Gridley High School. His class had an assignment to go up to the roof of the school which was three stories high and write a composition on what they saw from that height. I still have Ray's story:-

" 'It is a beautiful morning. It rained last night so everything is fresh and clear.

" 'Let us take a look to the north. That beautiful little town is the town of Gridley. The great building on the north corner of Hazel Street is the Gridley Hotel where you get pie 'like mother used to make.' The little green spot to the right is the Gridley Park where the children romp and play on the grass all day and where the boys and their sweethearts make love under the trees and where weary hobos find a bed on a nice summer's night.

" 'Now turning to the west we see vast plains which are the adobe lands. Here the land is as hard as flint in the summer and as soft as butter in the winter, so that if a mule or a horse goes out on it he sinks in, out of sight. About all that can be raised is grain. It is so dry that anything else will not grow.

" 'To the south are the Great Mountains of Gridley called the Buttes, the home of the rattlesnakes in the summer and the home of the wild geese in the winter. These mountains afford a great resort in the summer on account of there being so much game there.

" 'That creek winding its way thru the willows is called Butte Creek and is noted for its fine fish.

" 'See the geese out there on the plains. After the rainy season starts there will be about again as many. Sometimes you can hardly see the sun for them. The boys have great sport hunting for them.

" 'You ask, 'What are those little buildings out to the east and have the people gone into the chicken business ' No, they are colony houses. The colonists come in to settle up the land.



"Most of them pay about half of the money on their places and then get discouraged and give the land back to the company. The company makes a great deal of money this way.

"The great building to the left is the school building, one of the prettiest buildings in Gridley."

"In the winter of 1913-1914," Dimon Stewart adds, "It started to rain the last of October and it didn't let up until late in March. There were times during the winter when we couldn't get to town unless we either walked or went on horseback. The mud got so deep, the horses couldn't pull the wagon. When we went to the Social Hall, sometimes we had to wear boots and then sometimes the mud would come over the top of them. So when we went to a dance, we had a hard time getting our lady friends to dance.

Ben Shirley recalls, "The field west of the Social Hall was pond in winter and kids used old wash tubs for boats to play on it."

Katie Cameron continues, "The whole Parkside area was a grain field and in the winter it was a pond. Boys made rafts to float on it. The high school at the corner of Vermont and Sycamore Streets, where the Sycamore School is now located was the only building between Vermont Street and Randolph Road and from Sycamore Street to Little Avenue."

An option was taken on 722 acres and it was divided into five, ten and twenty acre parcels or whatever people wanted to buy. Laura Richins recalls, "They took up the land they wanted and started putting their little homes on it. They were told they didn't need very strong houses here in California. Anyway, they built some kind of home they could put their families into and worked their ground and gradually built as they could."

In the Larsen Journal, we find:- (1907) "Samuel Jr. Smith, Davil L. Smith and I made a trip to Gridley. It looked good to us. We bought land in what was known as Colony 8. Samuel J. bought 40 acres, Dave, 20 acres, I bought 20 acres and we bought 10 acres for Chris. John H. Jones, from Montpelier, a brother-in-law, bought, at a later date, 20 acres joining the property that we had bought." Then, "The first to go were John H. Jones, my brother-in-law, and brother, Chris, and their families. They started some 30 days ahead of us. Before we arrived in Gridley, John Jones had his house far enough along to occupy it. We lived in tents until we could move in. After my house was far enough along to live in, a house was started for David Smith and Mother. At the close of the year we were

as busy as bees, building our homes in a new state and under different conditions."

"Land sold for \$60 an acre here (Colony). The adobe land beyond the main canal west of Gridley sold for \$10 an acre." George Dewsnap recalls. And the Larsen Journal says they paid \$100 an acre for their land.

Susie Farnworth adds, "My parents and I moved to Gridley in 1912. My Dad was a farmer. Most of the Mormons who moved here bought small farms in the 'Colonies'. Since it was fruit country, they didn't need much land. Most of the tracts were in ten, twenty and forty acre parcels." Since huge acreages had been necessary for dry farming, older residents predicted the Mormons would starve to death with such small farms. Nevertheless, they prospered.

Mechanized farming as we know it today was unknown. Ben Shirley says, "We cultivated everything with horses. Later we did get a tractor. We loaded our peaches and took them to East Gridley and they were loaded on trains and sent in lug boxes to Sacramento and the Bay Area. Dad was a truck farmer for awhile. We delivered our vegetables and fruit in Biggs and Gridley. A load of vegetables was sold from house to house. A store in Biggs agreed to take anything that was left at the end of the day. Dad was one of the first to plant peaches in this part of the country. When the peaches got to where they were big trees, he didn't have land suitable to grow gardens, so he quit vegetable gardening except what we needed for ourselves. He also had a few walnuts." Katie Cameron recalls her father, William Price, also raised and delivered produce. In addition to the local market, he went into the foothill area, Challenge, Brownsville and as far as La Porte, hauling with team and wagon.

Farming was not the only business in which Mormons engaged. Dimon Stewart tells us, "There were three different families who bought hay bailers and formed three different firms to go out and bail on the ranches, Cole Brothers, Walker Brothers and Joe Cameron.

"In the early days of the Church, members residing in Gridley, there was another situation in which quite a number had their hands and that was land leveling. They leveled their lands with Fresno scrapers and teams of horses. One of the chief men of that kind of work was Joseph Cameron. For several years, he had a crew of men and teams working at various places in the valley.

"Many of the early settlers helped build the canal system. They especially helped in maintaining the canals. For years and years,



Oral Coe worked on the canal, maintaining the ditch banks, etc. Frank Webb was another who did a lot of work on them, also Marion Francis. They all had teams of horses, so were employed a lot on the ditches."

Ben Shirley says his father helped build canals when he first came here and George Dewsnap also mentioned that he and his brother, Frank, helped build the canal laterals.

Albert Taylor had a general merchandise store on the southwest corner of Hazel and Vermont Streets and Joe Taylor had a skating rink on Kentucky Street.

Wages were meager. Mamie Little says, "I remember when they went out and worked in the rice for \$1 a day. If a man had a team, he could take them out to the rice ranch for \$1.50 a day for man and team." George Dewsnap adds, I worked for 10 cents an hour in the Hunt Bros. Cannery for awhile until I got a raise to 15 cents an hour. things were awfully tough."

The local Hunt Bros. Cannery, located just across the railroad from the present Libby Cannery, furnished employment for many of the newcomers. Katie Cameron recalls, "The present Municipal Park was a camp ground and tents were furnished for those who wished to camp there and work in the cannery. Mamie and I stayed there our first summer in Gridley. Our grandmother stayed with us to look after us and do our cooking. I was fifteen years old and Mamie was thirteen. Everything was done by hand, pitting and peeling the fruit as well as the canning, also setting boxes of fruit in place, moving prepared fruit to the canners and removing pits and peelings. Pits and peelings were kept separate. I was told that brandy was made from the peelings. Hand trucks were the only equipment used to move fruit and things from place to place."

"When I worked in the Hunt Bros. Cannery," Orvil Barrow comments, "I carried pans of fruit from the preparation department to the canners and was paid 15 cents an hour. Later I canned pie fruit. At that time Panecaldo had the bakery and sold chocolate pies at the cannery for 15 cents."

"There were no labor laws." Katie continues, "Each day we worked until all the fruit on hand was processed. One day an unusual amount of fruit was on hand and the management, fearing workers would not return if allowed to go for dinner, locked the doors, served food and the workers were kept on the job until all the fruit was done."

"Some young people who had their hearts set on going dancing that night, climbed out the window," Artie Williams adds.

"Payday, the paymaster brought the payroll from the bank in gold and silver coins." Katie Cameron continues. "These were stacked on the table in front of him and wages were paid in coin. If you earned five dollars, you received a five dollar gold piece, etc."

Mamie Little enlarges, "During cannery time six and seven year old youngsters would go into the cannery and 'rim' peaches for their mothers to pit. There were no child labor laws then."

"Each summer, before the cannery started, there was a cannery picnic." Mamie Little continues. "There were carnival shows, dances, ball games and other amusements. People came to Gridley by train from all over the valley to attend the Cannery Picnic. The hotels filled up." Emma Dreyer adds, "It was held in June. A platform was built for the dance and the young people looked forward to the Cannery Picnic dance. They enjoyed it very much, probably because the music was better than they could afford for their own dances."

Many Mormon children attended the West Liberty School. Ben Shirley and Adrian Gee recall:- "Our first school here was out on West Liberty Road. There were no paved or graveled roads. we always walked to school. Some of the children were so wet and cold when they got to school, they were crying. The teacher had to get them dried out by the stove, which often took an hour. All of us kids graduated from the West Liberty School from the eighth grade. Adrian had to go to town to take the county examination to get into high school there. Some of the boys in the eighth grade were seventeen and eighteen years old."

Katie Cameron and Mamie Little make this contribution:- "The West Liberty School was not at the corner of West Liberty and Block Roads then but further west on West Liberty Road. Later it was moved to a location east of Block and West Liberty Roads for a time before the structure on that corner was built. We both went to this school. At that time it was just one classroom with all eight grades in the same room. We did not have a janitor, so it was up to the teacher to keep it clean. Some of the children stayed and helped her.

"Our water was from a pump and we had a bucket that was filled from the well, brought in and set up on a table in the classroom. It had a dipper in it and everyone drank from the same dipper.

"The school didn't furnish things to play with, so we brought our own balls and bats from home."



Susie Farnworth and Alice Carlin also mentioned attending the West Liberty School. Artie Williams recalls, "I went to that school, too. We always went barefoot in the summer but when school started in the fall, Mother insisted we must wear shoes to school. Well, we wore shoes to school but came home carrying them."

"I was the first Mormon boy to graduate from high school here," Orvil Barrow recalls. "Ray Little went to high school when he first came here but he told me he had to fight every boy in school so he dropped out."

Dimon Stewart tells us, "In high school, the first Mormon that was ever elected to be student body president was Martin Davis in 1922."

Transportation? Katie Cameron says, "We walked a lot. In those days it was often too muddy to walk down the road, so we walked down the ditch bank. Otherwise, buggys and wagons were used. Emma Dreyer concurs, "We walked to the Social Hall from town to go to church, Sunday School and Sacrament Meeting. Father and Mother rode in the surrey with the small children but the older children walked."

Mamie Little enlarges, "I got married when Grover (Cameron) was on his mission (1913) and we didn't have a car until Irven was a baby, so that was about four years later. Up until then, when I went to Sunday School, I had to go out and catch the horse, harness it to the buggy and get the kids into the buggy to go to church."

Marion Francis and my brother, Omer, used to race down Hazel Street or wherever they chanced to be, with horse and buggy, Orvil Barrow recalls. "Hazel Street was a dirt and gravel road then. Omer had a little mare and he raced her so much that whenever she heard a rig ahead of her he couldn't control her until they passed it. There were only two cars in Gridley then and a lot of horses were afraid of them. One of our horses had the "heaves" (short winded). It was scared to death of a car. When it heard one it ran as hard as it could in the opposite direction."

Katie Cameron recalls, "I had three children when we got our first car. We got it in 1918. It was a Model T. Ford without a battery. It ran on a magneto. You always had to crank it. Whenever the car engine died, everything went out, lights, horn, everything."

"The streets weren't paved and some of them had big 'Mud holes'. Getting stuck in the mud was commonplace. Usually, in wet weather, when we went anyplace, Grover (Cameron) took his boots. When we got stuck, he got out and pushed while I steered."

Besides that, the coils drew dampness. Many times I have had to bring them in the house and dry them out on the back of the kitchen range before we could go."

Mamie Little adds, "When Ray (Little) got his first car it was a Model T Ford Pickup. He used to pick up cream all over the countryside. He worked for the creamery here in town. He thought he could make better time in the pickup when gathering up the cans of cream. The first day he went out to pick up the cream, it took him longer than if he had used the horse and wagon. Everytime he slowed down, it died and he had to get out and crank the engine. I began to get worried before he got home that day."

"We used to take the family camping on Bucks Creek. We didn't travel as far then as we do now. We didn't go far because we had Model T Fords with gravity fuel tanks. You couldn't go up a mountain. You had to back it up or push it up. The gas tank was right under the front seat and the gas would run into the engine. There were no fuel pumps in them at that time to enable the gas to feed into the engine as the car climbed a steep hill."

Birth, sickness and death had their place. Alice Carlin contributes:- "In January (1907) my mother gave birth to twins, a boy and a girl. These were the first Mormons born here. Eight months after the twins were born, the little girl died. So mother did not have any girls left, just boys. My mother raised my father's children by his first wife. My mother was unconsolable by the death of the little baby girl. However, Rosalee, father's (George Cole) first wife, came to Mother in a dream. Rosalee had a baby in her arms and with her some other children. She told mother, 'You take care of my children and I'll take care of your's.' That message in the dream helped my mother and comforted her. Then she became pregnant and gave birth to me in 1910."

According to his journal, George M. Larsen and his wife, Elsie, lost two children and "Samuel J. Smith, Elsie's half-brother, died on Oct. 15, 1910. He left a large family. In 1911, some six or seven months after his death, his widow, Helen Vilate, became the mother of another boy. So she was the mother of a large family of children. The older boys had the responsibility of trying to run the place and pay for it. They were having a struggle of it."

George Losser lost his life when thrown from a horse, leaving a young wife and four children.

Malaria was prevalent and many suffered from "chills and fever" as it was called at that time. Artie Williams says, "I had chills and



fever like you wouldn't believe. I came home from school nearly every day with chills. I wouldn't take the quinine Grandma prepared, so I really had it."

The flu epidemic which followed World War I, also took its toll. Dimon Stewart recalls, "In the flu epidemic in 1918, there were quite a number of L.D.S. people who passed away. A few that I remember were, James Marler, Harold Borrowman, his mother and his sister-in-law, Winnie Borrowman." Katie Cameron adds Mattie Black to the list.

Emma Dreyer remembers Dr. Beck, "She delivered most of the Mormon babies. She was kind and considerate. Her charge was \$25. I worked with her and so did Sister Curtis. I delivered two babies by myself. I worked with the sick a lot, so helped take care of my sister, Maybel, who suffered with tuberculosis from about 1915 to 1918.

In the year 1906, the beginning of the movement of members of the LDS Church to the Gridley area, members in all of northern California were few. California Mission headquarters was in Los Angeles. Most residents knew little or nothing about the church and its people. Many reports that had reached them were not favorable and many looked askance at these newcomers.

Mamie Little recalled Mabel Dewsnup, wife of Ernest Dewsnup, saying, "When the Mormons came to town a bunch of us girls skipped school to go down to the depot to see what the Mormons looked like. The girls were disappointed because they found out that Mormons looked just like everyone else. She also said that when it was learned that mormons were going to settle in Gridley, it was decided to find out something about them and a book was secured in order to study the Mormons and you wouldn't believe the atrocious statements that were made in that book." No wonder the natives were apprehensive.

Artie Williams remembers Roy Robinson saying that when he was told Mormons were in town, he jumped on his horse and came pell-mell into town to see those Mormons with their horns. He lived at Robinson's corner on Highway 70. The first two girls he saw were the Losser sisters. Later he married Viola Losser, one of them.

"Lillian Nielson enjoyed telling about Roy Robinson who dashed into the barber shop on Kentucky St. saying, 'I heard there were some Mormons in town. Any here?' Lillian's father, William Farr, who was in the barber chair, raised up and replied, 'Yes, right here.'"

People really thought Mormons had horns and were of dubious character. Orvil also recalls a friend telling him that when she told friends she was moving to Gridley, they were aghast. "You're not going there! they exclaimed, There are Mormons there!" When she arrived, she looked everywhere to see those people with horns. Later she joined the Church.

Under date of Friday, February 22, 1907, the Gridley Herald announced:- "Hyrum Dewsnup and family will arrive from Rexburg today." And in the following issue, Friday, March 1st:- "The Idaho crowd now numbers 150. Forty came last week." Laura Richins comments, "There was a large crowd of people there to see that train come in. They thought they were going to see horns on everybody. That's what they were believing at that time but they were fooled."

The reaction of the local residents was mixed. Katie Cameron says, "We had nice neighbors, the Gridleys and the Gersts. They paid us a visit and made us welcome." and George M. Larsen recorded in his journal:- "Some of the people here did not take to us Mormons any too well but the majority of the people treated us fine.

However, there were others who experienced difficulties. For Example, George Dewsnup related his experience:- "Many a time they would throw me down and spit tobacco juice in my hair, rub it in and feel around in my hair to see where my horns were. They were big fellows. The principal at the school---. I'll have to tell you about that:-

"When I first came here I started to school. I was going to school and working at the hotel. I was only fourteen or fifteen years old. My brother, Arthur, and I were changing off. I'd stay at the hotel, run the errands and go over to the depot and bring things over to the hotel and he worked on the farm and vice versa.

"My brother, Ernest, said, 'Well, George, it's your turn to go out to the ranch and your brother can stay here for a week. After school is out, you stay here on the school grounds and I'll pick you up.'

I said, 'O.K.' and I stayed on the school grounds. While I was there the teacher came by and asked me why I was standing there on the grounds and why I hadn't gone home. I told her and she went on. The next morning she told the principal about it.

"When I went to school, the teacher told me the principal wanted to see me up in his office. It was a two story building with an attic room and he had his office up there. I went up to the office. The door was open and I walked in.



"The principal said, 'Well, George, you disobeyed the rules of the school and I've got to punish you for it.'

"I told him, 'I didn't know your rules. My brother told me to stay on the grounds and he'd pick me up along about six o'clock. Which he did.' It was five thirty. School let out at four.

"Well, I've got to chastise you. You take off your shirt and lean over that bench. I'm going to give you twenty stripes.' He had a razor strap about two and a half feet long.

"I took off my shirt. I had just my shirt and trousers on. He gave me twenty stripes with that strap and my back was just all bleeding.

"He said, 'Now you go down in the basement, clean up, then put your shirt on and go back to your room.'

"When I went out that door, I called him a dirty rotten name and that he was lower than a skunk.

"He started after me and I hit the rail and I went down that rail and I went down the second story and the first. When I got out on the other side of the street, he came out on the step.

"A fellow said, 'The principal is watching you.'

"I said, 'Yes, he gave me a lick'n and I'm going to get over to the hotel.'

"So I went over to the hotel. When I walked into the dining room, it was empty. There was no one in the office. Mother and the girls were upstairs. The three chinese cooks were back in the kitchen.

"There was a linen cupboard in the corner. I pulled it open and I could see into the office just by peeking. I got behind that cupboard, pulled it back and here came the principal.

"Mother came downstairs and asked, 'Is there some trouble?'

"He said, 'Your son disobeyed orders over at the school and I chastised him. He called me a dirty name and beat it. I came over here to get him and take him back to school.'

"Mother said, 'My husband isn't here and I haven't seen him.'

"They went back and asked the chinese and they said, 'No. They hadn't seen me. I could hear all that was going on.'

"He said, 'Well, I'll come back after a while and see him.'

"After he left, Mother went in the office. I pushed back the cupboard and went in. She said, 'I hear you disobeyed the rules of the school over there and the teacher chastised you and you called him a dirty name.'

"I said, 'I did.' I turned around and my white shirt was just covered with blood. My mother just about fainted.

"She said, 'You go upstairs and I'll be right up there and I'll clean you up. Father will be home before long and I know when he sees the condition you are in, things will pop.'

"She cleaned me up and I went in the bedroom and laid down.

"Pretty soon Papa came in. She went down to the office and told him about it. He came and looked at me and he pert near fainted. I told him what happened and he said, 'I could just kill that guy.'

"He went down to the Gridley Herald, I think Mr. Burleson was one of the trustees of the school, brought him over and showed him what had happened to me.

"He said, 'We'll go over to the school and see. I don't want you to be upset. Get a hold of yourself. I can just see you grabbing a hold of him and almost killing him. Don't get upset and we'll handle this.'

"As a result that principal was fired."

Where ever a group of Latter Day Saints congregate, church services soon begin. Gridley was no exception. Alice Carlin describes the beginnings:- "My dad (first) moved into a home on Spruce Street. This was where the first church meetings were held. These meetings were started on their first Sunday and they have been held ever since, except during the flu epidemic. People just started coming to church and every week they came. Pres. Robinson was the Calif. Mission Pres. He organized the branch of the church here on Feb. 24, 1907. My Dad was appointed branch president with J. Frank Dewsnap as first counselor and Charles Larsen as second counselor. It took about a year before the Relief Society and MIA were organized."

This was a nucleus for the growth and expansion we see today. An organization of the church, even a small branch has always been a major consideration for LDS people considering relocation. When her father left to investigate the Gridley area in 1908, Katie Cameron recalls her mother telling him she would not go unless there was an organization of the Church.

"We went to Sunday School when we first got here," Mamie Little adds. It was in the old Gridley Opera House on Ohio Street, now the location of the Gridley Furniture Store. When we came to Gridley, there was a nice sized group of members in the Church here already. There was one couple, Bro. and Sis. Samuel Sampson, who lived in Yuba City and came here for church. They had been converts.

George M. Larsen's journal records:- At the close of the year (1980) the branch had grown in numbers until we numbered close to five hundred Saints. They were moving in fast,



each month bringing in new families. A few were moving out, not being able to make the payments on the property they had bought."

Some left for other reasons. The Barrow family came close to leaving. As Orvil Barrow explains, "The women and Omer were homesick. Omer was so homesick he wouldn't leave the house. He and Lavaun didn't want to come in the first place. In fact, Lavaun would have jumped off the train if the conductor had not restrained her. So, Father sent them back to Idaho and put his property up for sale. Well, things weren't the same in Idaho. Old friends had married or moved away and Mother's ailment returned. She wrote and told Father not to sell the property, 'We'll be home and willing to stay,' she told him."

"The Larsen Journal continues, "In the spring months we held Sunday School and Sacrament meeting under the shade of the trees next to the Hall we were building. Then we met in the Hall when it was partly finished. Pres. George W. Tolley was an ex-bishop from one of the wards in Canada. He was a carpenter and contractor and he was in charge of putting up the new Hall. All the work was done by the Saints."

Dimon Stewart relates, "In the early 1930's a skunk got under the building and died and we couldn't hold meetings for three weeks because of the smell. The building was made with no ventilators underneath the building, so we had to tear some lumber off the side of the building and reach in there with a long pole to get the skunk out." Lyda Horn and, no doubt others, remember the skunk, too.

"It took some time to build the church at the corner of Sycamore and Vermont Streets," Emma Dreyer recalls. "It took quite awhile to raise the money."

From the Larsen Journal:- My assessment toward the erection was \$100. I paid on the installment plan, a little each month. Others worked out their assessments. A few saints were coming in all the time in 1912 and others leaving but the branch was growing fast."

When the church in town was constructed in 1912, Lydia Barrow, then president of the Relief Society instigated the acquisition of a handsome nickel plated sacrament service for the new building. It consisted of handled trays for the bread and tall slender pitchers and goblets for the water. At that time, the deacons carried a goblet in one hand and a pitcher in the other. Goblets filled with sacramental water were passed from member to member, each in turn taking a sip. The water was replenished by the deacons as they moved from row to row.

As time passed, the church was remodeled from time to time to better serve the congregation and programs of the Church. The addition of a baptismal font provided privacy and a better atmosphere for the ordinance. It may have left something to be desired but was certainly an improvement. Prior to this time, baptisms generally took place in a canal and were not accompanied by the spiritual atmosphere of baptismal services today. There were no interviews with the bishop in advance. There was no white clothing, usually a bathing suit or old clothes were worn. There was no music, no songs, no inspirational messages, no congratulating friends or relatives. Only the short baptismal prayer and immersion.

Under date of 1912, the Larsen Journal states:- "We had a Sunday School in Colony 4 known as the Liberty Sunday School, the one in Gridley and also a Sunday School a few miles north known as the Biggs Sunday School. This was held in the village of Biggs in a rented building." Then in 1913 is found this entry, "The branch at Biggs by this time was part of the Gridley Branch."

"Conditions in the branch were none too good. A great number of the young people were forgetting themselves and were doing things that the Latter Day Saints should live above."

"Three divorce cases had developed amongst our own people. Two of them created considerable trouble in our branch."

"However, we had in this branch some very good people who were doing all in their power to do what was right."

"1916 - Because of conditions in Gridley with so many young people getting in trouble, we felt like it would be better to move back to Idaho again. We felt that it was too dangerous to live here and raise a family of boys and girls subject to the many temptations. We, also, did not like the prospects of them marrying outside the Church. We had a good job here, a fine location for a home when paid for but we felt that there was more than just looking for the comforts of life. We packed our belongings and bought tickets to Menan, Idaho. We arrived there about April 4, 1916."

Emma Dreyer gives a glimpse of early MIA:- "When I was president of the MIA, I was only twenty years old. MIA was held on Sunday evening and the activities were held during the week. We had dances, put on skits and such things but we didn't have the help that is available now. We attended June Conference and this was a help. While there, returned missionaries and anyone who worked in the Church in California had a reunion and



this was very enjoyable. At that time, the MIA had a reading course. Before coming home from June Conference I bought the books for the coming year and brought them home with me. This made my luggage very heavy but I managed. We worked hard to make it successful and things generally went well."

Laura Richins worked many years in the Primary. "We've done a lot of things. We put on many little plays. One was 'In Grandmother's Old Fashioned Garden.' It was quite a long play and Ray Stewart thought it was excellent. Another one was about Joseph Smith when he hid the plates in a barrel. One year we braided the Maypole. Another time, the boys made little chairs and things. Sylvia Hendrix helped a lot. She was real good, although, she wasn't a member of the church until later. We were ambitious and were trying to build it up."

Carrying on the organizations was sometimes difficult. Emma Dreyer recalls her sister, Maybel Williams, coming home from Primary when she was president and saying she was the only officer there. She conducted, played the organ, led the singing and did some of the praying.

"District Conferences were exciting," Emma Dreyer remembers. "President Robinson was there and ever so many missionaries who stayed in the homes of the members. One time, we had thirteen elders at our place for conference." Katie Cameron recalls, "One year at conference time, several of us were packing oranges in Palermo. We didn't want to miss conference, so, Saturday afternoon we walked home. We had no other transportation and conference was important to us."

Orvil Barrow recalls visits by President Heber J. Grant. "He sang for us while he was here. As you know, he had difficulty learning to sing."

"1909 - Pres. Joseph E. Robinson of the Calif. Mission visited us at least every six months and gave us advice within our organization." --1914 - "Up to the present time, during the past six years, we have received visits from a number of General Authorities in our Gridley Branch. Some of these visitors were as follows:- Frances M. Lyman, George F. Richards, David O. McKay, George Albert Smith, Patriarch John Smith, Andrew Jensen and others. We enjoyed their visits very much. Pres. Smith had been in Gridley several years ago, back in 1907. A large number of Saints from old Mexico came here after being driven out. However, the majority of these returned to Texas and Arizona. A few of our prominent men and

women died who had come to Gridley to make this their home. We had also sent some of our young men on missions, in which they made good. At this time we had complete organization of all our auxiliaries." (George M. Larsen Journal)

Missionary work has always been a vital program in the Church. Alice Carlin says, "My dad did missionary work in Chico, Marysville, Sacramento and Yuba City. He and his companions preached in the parks. they took a little organ and sang at their park and street meetings."

Mamie Little relates, "Grover Cameron and Omer Barrow were the first missionaries to go out from California. They went to the Central States Mission. Both left at the same time, in time for October Conference 1911, but they were not missionary companions." Katie Cameron adds, "I still have Grover's missionary call, dated 24 August 1911 and signed by President Joseph F. Smith. He was requested to leave Salt Lake City on October 11th. Grover and Omer were close all their lives. I was engaged to Grover at the time he left for his mission. I waited two years for him to finish his mission and then met him in Salt Lake where we were married."

The decision to fill a mission wasn't any easier then than it is now. George Dewsnap was called on a mission in 1913. He tells about it this way, "I was going to marry Bro. Barrow's daughter, Orlean. We were engaged and were going to get married in June.

Pres. Tolley asked me if I'd go on a mission and I said, 'I don't know. I intend to get married. I don't know, I'll sleep on it. I'll ask her about it.' So, that night I went up to her house and asked her about it.

"I said, 'I don't like to turn this mission down.' and she said, 'I don't want you to turn it down.'"

I said, 'Well, we got to make a decision, get married now or wait until I come back. I'd rather wait until I come back, until I've filled my mission. You might see someone you like better than me.' and she said, 'Oh, no, no. If you want to do that, I'll stay true to you.' I said, 'I know I'll stay true until I fill my mission.'

"That's the way it went and the next day I went up and told Pres. Tolley, 'O.K.' that I'd accept the call. I filled a twenty six months mission in the southern states. We had a hard time. Orlean wrote to me while I was gone.

When the two years were up and I went in to get my release, Pres. Callus came to me and said, 'Elder Dewsnap, we're going to hold you for two or three weeks, you and Elder



Shumway. I want you to go with me to visit the branch conferences.' I said to him, 'I paid my own way. I sold everything I had before I came away and I haven't got much money left.' and he said, 'Just forget about the money. I'll take care of that. We'll have a good time together and when we finish visiting the branches then we'll get your release.'

"When I left, he said, 'I want you to go home and raise a family and God bless you.' I was well blessed when I came back.

"I sent her (Orlean) the money to meet me in Salt Lake City. Her brother, Omer, and Emily came back there with her and the four of us were married in the temple in Salt Lake."

Orvil Barrow left on his mission in 1919 and was the 6th missionary called from here. Omer Barrow, Grover Cameron, George Cole, George Taylor, and George Dewsnap preceeded him. Before the Stake was organized, he was called as a "traveling speaker". His territory extended as far south as Sacramento and the west side (of the Sacramento River) where ever branches were organized. He was released when the Stake was organized.

Temple marriage, then as now, was dear to the hearts of Latter Day Saints. However, considering distance, travel time and propriety, it was generally considered expedient for the young people to have a civil marriage, then make the trip to Utah. Mamie Little, Susie Farnworth and Lyda Horn all followed this course. Mamie and Ray Little were married in Oroville, then two weeks later in the Logan Temple. Susie Farnworth and her husband were married in Gridley and a week later went to Salt Lake. Lyda Horn and her husband, John, were married in Oroville and later in Salt Lake.

Music as always was important. Katie Cameron recalled, "Remember when you (Mamie Little) and I sang in Mutual one night in the Opera House? Ray's sister Florence (Little) played the organ for us.

Alice Carlin relates, "After my father was Branch President, he was appointed to be choir director. The branch had a beautiful choir. They put on operas in the Gridley Opera House on Ohio Street. Famous singers came out from Salt Lake and sang with them in the lead roles."

Artie Williams and Katie Cameron both recall with enthusiasm, the musical drama, Queen Esther, depicting the Bible narrative. Martha Gattiker played the lead role. The visiting producer played the king. It was presented twice in the Gridley Opera House and again in Live Oak.

Alice continues, "Father's choir used to go to Sacramento to sing for conferences. They also sang in San Francisco. This group was noted for their beautiful singing and I guess the Church here has had a singing choir ever since.

"Some of those who used to sing in my father's choir were Martha Gattiker, Orlean Dewsnap, Emily Barrow, Julia Cole, Sister Farr, Lillian Nielson, Jack Nielson, Omer Barrow, Charles Sannar, Katie Cameron, Laura Richins, Frank Dewsnap, Emma Dreyer and Joseph Dreyer.

Dimon Stewart adds, "My Uncle Frank Bodily was an accomplished musician and he used to play the organ for the church when he lived here. They had a piano first and then an organ. He accompanied the choir.

"In 1917, John Todd and I decided to sing in the choir and learn the parts. So we joined. Bro. George Cole was the conductor. We learned some of those hymns Bro. Cole liked so well. I enjoy singing in the choir yet. What makes it more important is that Analee Wiser, is the granddaughter of Bro. Cole.

Drama at the Social Hall is remembered as one of the outstanding activities of the church members. Ben Shirley and Adrian Gee recall, "They used to put on some good one and three act plays at the Social Hall. Bro. Ray Stewart was the drama director then and this was one of the main sources of entertainment." Lyda Horn agrees, "there were about eight of us who put on all the plays out there. Ray Stewart was our instructor." Alice Carlin also, "I was in all the plays."

Dimon Stewart enlarges, "We had a lot of fun in those days at the Social Hall. It was a center for Church members. Every year they would have several dramas by the local talent. My father, Ray Stewart directed many of those dramas. Some I particularly remember participating were:- Lucy Hendrix, Ella Wilcox, Susie Shirley, Gertrude Scott, Lizzie Cole, Susie Terry, Lyda Farnworth and Elzina Nielson. There may be others. I have forgotten. The men were:- Dan Hendrix, Frank Wilcox, Charley Sannar, Frank Dewsnap, John Todd, Ben Shirley, George Hendrix, and Sylvester Daniels and there could have been more.

"I recall one drama we put on. Dad selected the cast from the kids in their teens. It was called the Country Kid. During a part of the show there was supposed to be a mill that was dynamited. To get the sound effect, he took a double barrel 12 guage shot gun with blank cartridges. A few of us wild young boys got the idea that we would make it louder than that



and chewed up spit wads and put in these shell casings. When they shot the gun they held it straight up and as a result, there were two holes made in the ceiling of the building. The building was sealed with embossed metal. Those holes remained in that ceiling as long as the building was there.

Dimon Stewart also mentioned the patriotic drills which Dorothy Fife directed. Mostly girls participated. Also, "At Thanksgiving time, it was a custom to have Frank Wilcox give a recitation. The name of it was 'When Father Carved the Turk.' Frank could make you see the gentleman carving the turkey." (His daughter, Marvella Little, still recites this today.) "Lizzie Cole was another one who was very adept at giving readings. She also could make you see the things she was talking about."

"Of course, the Mormons always had dances," Katie Cameron attests. "Even crossing the plains dances were held around the campfires to keep up morale. That is where I met my husband, at a dance right there in the old Opera House."

"When we were still in the Social Hall, Ray Little was dance manager for years. Sometimes he had to pull couples off the dance floor if they didn't dance just right. He didn't like to do it but he did."

Dimon Stewart concurs, "There were lots of dances held in the Social Hall. All age groups attended our dances, both old and young." Lyda Horns adds, "We went to the dances at Liberty Church (Social Hall) and we took our children with us. We put chairs together and put them down to sleep there while we enjoyed the evening."

Both branches had lots of dances. The music was live, usually a piano and perhaps a fiddle. On special occasions an orchestra might be hired. All age groups attended, young and old, from teenagers on up to the elderly."

Emma Dreyer gives Lillian Nielson credit for playing at many of the MIA dances. "She was awfully good about playing and she had a certain style that was very much liked."

"The athletic program of the LDS Church has not always been the well organized and sophisticated program that it is today. With the possible exception of the Church-wide M Men basketball schedules, organization was done more on a local level and a lot of that depended upon the enthusiasm and work of the participants. In other words, if you wanted to play a sport, you organized it and did the work necessary to make it successful. For example, the 'West Gridley Pirates' basketball team of the late twenties, composed

principally of church members, was managed and captained by George (Butter) Cole. Harry Sannar, a player, made up the game schedules, which was no mean feat. This was a championship team which beat other league teams and also many fine area town teams.

"Baseball (hard ball, no softies here) was played often on the old Social Hall diamond and West Liberty School grounds. If there was no scheduled game, they would choose up sides and play each other. Player mits were a premium and had to be passed around so everyone would have a mit. Many times there were not enough. Often-times we would have only one bat and if that was broken, it would be taped up and continued to be used. If the cover came off the baseball, we would tape it also. No big deal! Money for sports equipment was hard to come by. No sponsors here."

Some of the great sports events we had were held on the 4th and 24th of July. These celebrations were held annually at the old Liberty Ward (Social Hall) grounds. They consisted of running and jumping events and the featured attraction, 'The annual baseball game between the single and married men.' Also, a joint team which played the Missionary Elders of the Calif. Mission. One game between the single and married men, I remember well. The married team had an outstanding battery (pitcher and catcher). They were just too much for the single guys. Will Short, the pitcher, had a great curve ball. Arch Peterson was the catcher. (Arch was Phil Peterson's dad and Will was his uncle) Together, Arch and Will were a great combination which struck out the other side regularly. A curve ball as sharp as Will's was just too much for the batters.

"Frank Dewsnap, who was branch president, would get into the games, calling himself 'Babe Ruth.' He would put on a great show. These are memories never to be forgotten." -- Walter G. Little

Both the 4th and 24th of July were celebrated. Alice Carlin tells us, "The first July 24th was celebrated at the Wickman Ranch. I have pictures of that day." After the Social Hall property was obtained, the celebrations were held there. Alice Carlin continues, "They would have the July 24th, Pioneer Celebrations at the Social Hall. Everyone took lunches and even the Yuba City church members would come and join us."

Ben Shirley:- "The highlight for me was the 24th of July celebration. It was held at the Social Hall. They sold soda pop and ice cream. We ran races, sack races, three-legged races and wheel barrow races. Some of the boys



could jump five and six feet up and over a bar."

Lyda Horn:- "The 24th of July, Pioneer Day, was the time the men put up a bowery, made a framework and put willows over the top of it. This was where we put on our program, in the yard by the Social Hall."

Dimon Stewart:- "We always had something at the Social Hall on the 4th of July. I recall they always had somebody dressed up as Uncle Sam. They had games and races of all kinds. They always had a booth where they sold ice cream and they always had a dance in the evening."

On the 24th, they also had a big time there. They had ball games in the afternoon. They had the missionaries from the Calif. Mission playing ball with the local talent. One of the missionaries, not being dressed for it, slid into base and ruined his suit. It was declared off limits, from then on, for the missionaries to play ball with us.

"One 24th of July they decided to have a rodeo, so they found some calves different people had, put them in Shirley's corral. (Shirley's place was across the road west of the Social Hall.) I took the skin off every one of my knuckles trying to hold on."

"Another thing they had was a mock indian raid. Several of the young fellows put head-dresses on and colored their bodies to represent indians. They had covered wagons in a circle west of the Social Hall. These indians came on them and staged a raid. It was quite an affair."

"Each time they had one of those programs, they had the Mormon Brass Band perform."

To celebrate Christmas together, the church members would go to the Social Hall on Christmas Day. In the morning they would dance and then eat together at noon, dance again in the afternoon and play games."

"Mother made us dolls at Christmas time and she would dress them pretty and this was all we expected to get. The school teachers would bring all the children to the Social Hall for a Christmas party. We did not have decorations at the school," Adrian Gee recalls.

"I don't remember ever having a Christmas tree at home when we were kids," Artie Williams adds.

"Kids these days have more to take advantage of than we had years ago." Katie Cameron remarks. After we had had radio for a few years, someone said we would soon be able to see these characters that we heard on radio plays and I thought they were 'pipe dreaming'. I didn't think then, it would ever

be possible to see television as we have it today. We didn't have commercial entertainment. We practically had to make our own fun."

"We often congregated at different homes to sing and I remember someone had a harmonica that he played while we danced on the canal bridge." Artie Williams recalls.

"One time," says Dimon Stewart, "We teenagers got permission from the officials of the church there to dig a bicycle race track. We dug it by hand in the southwest corner of the lot. We spent a lot of time racing there. One evening just before dark, John Todd and Sylvester Daniels were racing there and going pretty fast. A dog ran in front of them. John couldn't miss him. It messed his bicycle up but didn't hurt him."

"One Halloween, the Mutual decided they would have a party and they had the basement of the Social Hall very dimly lit. They figured more ways of scaring people than I know of. They had to go into this basement from the outside entrance. As they stepped from the last step, they were on a set of bed springs and that would give them a scare. There were devils with pitch forks. They had to drink the devil's blood. This was red jello in water."

Sometimes unconventional things happened like the incident Dimon Stewart recalls:- "One time, Richard R. Lyman of the Council of the Twelve, visited for conference. A bunch of kids didn't go into the conference. They were playing outside. These youngsters were under twelve years of age. They decided they would take a board and lean it up against the wall and look in the window and see what was going on. One of the youngsters climbed up. The board slipped and bumped all the way down the wall. Brother Lyman said, 'I have told the devil lots of times, 'Get thee behind me Satan,' but this is the first time he ever minded me.'"

"Hunters used to go hunting out west of town and often brought in a gunny sack full of ducks. There was no limit on how many one could shoot. We didn't have refrigeration then so we gave the extra ducks and geese to neighbors. When the ducks were flying overhead, you could hardly see the sun." Mamie Little recalls and adds, "When we were young parents we used to take our children and go down to the Feather River in the evening and catch shad. Dip them out with nets, about four or five fish at a time with the big dip nets attached to long poles. We would take a frying pan and some shortening, build a fire on the river bank and have a fish fry right on the bank of the river. My children were



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## A Tradition of Peach Growing

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In 1936, Walter G. Little signed a document which, almost 45 years later, would become historic. The document, California Canning Peach Association membership agreement #99-1, makes the Walter Little family peach operation the oldest membership in the Association.

Cling peaches are a tradition in the Little family. It was in 1908 that Walter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Alonzo Little, came to Gridley from Utah and purchased the 20 acres on Block and West Liberty Roads that is still the home place. Walter was born and has lived all of his life on the same property.

The original plantings on the home place were of Phillips and Tuscan clings and Lovell freestones. The clings went to the cannery and the freestones were dried. The crops were harvested in lug boxes and hauled by team and wagon to the Sacramento Northern Electric Railroad in East Gridley which ran to Sacramento and the Bay Area.

Walter points out that all of the work was done by hand and that plowing and cultivating were done by real horse power. Some extra help might be hired during thinning or harvesting, but the year-around work was done by the family. "People worked harder taking care of 25 or 30 acres then than they now do with 100 acres," Walter says.

Libby built a cannery in Gridley in 1920, and Walter remembers the fieldman buying peaches at \$100 a ton in that year — "a price that amazed all of us," he says. The Littles began delivering their crop to Libby at that time and have continued to do so throughout most of the ensuing years. In 1922, when California Canning Peach Growers, the predecessor organization to California Canning Peach Association was formed, Frank Little became both a member and a director of the organization. Directors' meetings were held at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco which necessitated a major journey from Gridley via the Electric Railway



The Walter Little family was honored at the 58th annual meeting of California Canning Peach Association. Chairman of the board Roy Norene presented them with a plaque designating them as holders of the oldest membership in the association. Shown in the foreground are Walter and Hazel Little, Roy Norene, and CCPA director Gary Little. In the background are statewide delegate chairman Mitch Soso and CCPA president Ron Schuler.

and across the San Francisco Bay on the ferry. The tradition of being an Association director is now being carried on by his grandson, Gary, who doesn't have quite as much of a problem in getting to the meetings.

It was in the mid-20s that the Littles acquired their first piece of mechanical equipment — a Fordson tractor. "From then on, my Dad didn't have much trouble getting us to help in the orchard," Walter says. "We were all eager to run that tractor rather than walk behind the horse." Gasoline for the tractor sold for 13 cents a gallon, he notes.

Over the years, Walter and his wife, Hazel, have raised three sons — Gary, Craig and Brent, who are now all farming, and two daughters. Each of the sons leases part of the home place as well as farming other acreages of peaches and prunes and raising cattle. Walter is ostensibly retired but admits

he is busier than ever helping out, as well as getting things done that he never seemed to have time to do before.

Walter credits Hazel with much of the success they have achieved. "My wife and I have always been a team and she deserves great credit. She has kept the books and helped out on supervising as well as raising our family, which really kept her busy," Walter says.

The Littles are a close knit family and Walter is particularly pleased that their five children are close by. The sons and one daughter live near Gridley and the other daughter is in Sacramento. "And there are 19 grandchildren," Walter says proudly, "several of which are usually around our place to keep things humming. It gives us a chance to spoil them without having to suffer the consequences, which is a real pleasure," he concludes.







small and I worried about them falling into the river though."

Most youngsters enjoyed swimming and had their favorite swimming holes in the canals.

During the early part of 1934, Dimon Stewart was instrumental in getting a troupe of Boy Scouts started in the Liberty Branch. He was chosen as the scout master. Thus started his career in scouting. Some of the boys in the first troop were:- Omer Barrow Jr., William Carlin, Orson Scott, Harold Scott, Max Callup and Roy Thompson. "We decided to have a fund raising project. We held a carnival at the Social Hall and had booths. Two of the Stewart boys who were a little bit too young to be scouts at the time had a little pig they had trained to climb a ladder and slide down a slide. So they made a booth with burlap around it. Everytime the pig would do his trick, he would let out a squeal and everyone got excited. It was the best booth of all.

Mamie Little was involved in 4-H. "When they started a 4-H club here, the Church sponsored it. That's how I got started in 4-H club work. I stayed in it for ten years. It was called the West Liberty 4-H Club. When the County 4-H Council got the 4-H camp at Bucks Lake Shore, we used to take our 4-H members up there on the back of a truck. I rode the back of a truck up that mountain road many times."

Mormons have always been active in community affairs. Dimon Stewart cites some of this activity, "In the West Liberty School District, there were two members of the Church who were on the school board for years and years. They were Dan Hendrix and Frank Little. It was about 1930 when my father, Ray Stewart, was elected to the High School board of trustees and served there for fourteen years. He was on the school board when the old building burned down during the early years of the war (World War II), and he had a lot to do with getting the new building up which is where the Sycamore School is at the present time."

He also recalls, "During the First World War, I remember the following as being in the service of their country:- Newman Cole was a mechanic in the Air Force, Ezra and Ard Johnson and Byron Borrowman were in the Navy, Melvin and Willard Cole, Lorin Wilcox, Payton Shirley and Alex Justeson were in the army."

The Great Depression was a trying time for people both in and out of the Church. As Mamie Little said, "During the Depression in the 1930's a lot of people lost their homes, especially people who were in debt."

Ben Shirley stated that he farmed with his father for four or five years after he was married. Then the Depression came on in 1929. His father lost his farm at this time. Ben worked at any kind of job that was available. Katie Cameron adds, "My husband did some farming and carpenter work. But, in the Depression of the 1930's there was no building going on. That was when we had hard times here in Gridley. Sometimes you didn't know whether you were going to have food for next week or not. They didn't have welfare then. We lost our farm. I once said, 'We lost everything but our six kids.' We rented a house here in town. The men went out and worked for \$1.50 a day in the orchards and that wasn't steady work. It was very seasonal."

"Edith was born in the middle of the depression." Mamie Little recalls. "I paid for half of the medical care for her birth with peaches in 1932. Bro. James M. Pryde and his wife, Effie, took care of me in their home at that time for twenty one days. They took confinement cases in their home on their farm near Biggs."

After awhile things got better. Then World War II came along. The dark days of war were difficult, too. It seemed as if every able bodied young man was in the service.

Things have not been easy, but in many ways we have been blessed.

"Before we came out here, Father wrote a letter to one of the apostles in Salt Lake City. He wrote back and told father to go and locate here in Gridley with his family and God's blessing would go with him." Laura Richins recalls. "So, that's why father came out here to locate and helped to bring more Saints to build it up so our church would flourish. It has grown and grown. Now we have three wards in Gridley. I think the people here respect us. They think a lot of our people. I've always been happy here. I love California and I love Gridley."

"I can't complain," George Dewsnap says, "This is a wonderful country we live in and God has certainly blessed us. Mormonism has sure spread by leaps and bounds. It's the only true church in the world, The Church of Jesus Christ. He is the leader."



## PERSONAL HISTORIES OF GRIDLEY RESIDENTS

### THE ROBERT ANSTEAD FAMILY

Robert James Anstead was born in Redding, Calif. and moved to Gridley in 1927 with his parents and brothers and sisters. He married Vera Campbell in 1930. They have four children: Ronald Keith, now living in Winters, Calif., Gloria Gail Hillier residing in Bountiful, Utah, Robert LeRoy, living in Stockton, Calif., and Bonnie Beryl Campbell, living in Ukiah, Calif. All attended Gridley schools and participated in LDS Church functions in the Gridley Wards.

Robert joined the LDS Church in 1960. He worked for Gridley Warehouses for 37 years, the last 15 as Warehouse Foreman and Manager. He retired in 1975.

His hobbies are music, fishing, hunting, boating, gardening, flying, and collecting books on outdoor life. He has sung in the Church Choir since joining the church. He is active in his Elders Quorum and participates in a musical group called the Music Makers, often playing for Senior Citizens groups and rest homes in the Gridley and Yuba City areas.

Vera has worked a great deal in the Genealogical Library for many years. She is very knowledgeable about genealogy and the library. She has held many church positions during her life here in Gridley.

### OMER SAMUEL BARROW

Omer Samuel Barrow came from Idaho to this area as a young man with his parents, Samuel A. and Lydia Call Barrow, along with his brothers and sisters as some of the early settlers. He was always an active member as a young man and was one of the two first missionaries to be sent from the Gridley area in 1911.

He was a man of great love for his Father in Heaven and enjoyed being engaged in His work. He married Emily Nielson and they reared Maurine, Omer N. and Earl Barrow, all of which are still living in the community.

Omer S. gave much service for our Father's children here and always had great love and concern for them - never complaining of the time or effort he gave. In October 1925 he was made 1st Counselor to Pres. Frank Dewsnup over the Liberty Branch. He acted there until being released and then set apart as 1st Counselor to Pres. Grover Cameron. He served with him until May of 1932 and was then released and set apart as Branch President.

In December of 1934 the Gridley area was made into a Stake and he was at that time set apart as Bishop of the Liberty Ward. He served as such until his release in January of 1942.

The Branch and then Ward accomplished much under his love and leadership even though they had the problem of being few in numbers and very little cash to give to help with the needs of the ward. He took upon himself, with the help of his good wife, to be the caretaker of the church and its property so that the moneys received from Salt Lake for such could be retained in the ward's account and was used for its needs rather than to ask for donations from the members.

When the Liberty Ward was made part of the Gridley Ward and the Junior Sunday School organized he was set apart as the coordinator over it and served many years there teaching and loving the little children. Upon his release he was made the High Priest Group Leader. After his health had given him problems he filled a two year Stake Mission.

Many people were blessed by his love and efforts throughout the years of his life. He passed away August 22, 1972.

### BARROW

Samuel Albert Barrow was born in Columbus, Nebraska, January 3, 1865, the sixth child of English immigrants John and Martha Galley Barrow. He was educated in the schools at Columbus and was reared in farm work there. When he was seventeen, he went to Salt Lake City and worked in a hotel and as a delivery boy for a grocery and commission house for four years.

In the spring of 1886, he went to Rigby, Idaho. There in the sage brush on his preemption of a quarter of a section of land, he built a log cabin with a dirt roof. Here he pioneered with other settlers. Three years after he located his preemption claim, he was married at the Logan Temple to Miss Lydia Jane Call. For the next 20 years he had good returns in his farming and raising livestock.

In December of 1908, because of the ill health of Mrs. Barrow, they came to California to see the country and to try to find a place where she would feel better. They stopped at Gridley and soon found that this place was blessed with a climate that would soon bring back her health. They returned to Rigby, sold their land and in May 1909, came back to Gridley and bought a home on Ohio Street.



Mr Barrow purchased 38 acres of land in then Colony 4 and Colony 9. Colony 4 today is the area north and south of Social Hall Road at French Avenue. Colony 9 today is on the north side of West Liberty Road between French and Lewis Oak Roads. He raised peaches, prunes, grain, beans and a truck garden.

Mrs. Barrow died in 1936 and in the winter of 1938, Mr. Barrow sold his farming interests to two of his sons and went to live with one of his daughters and her family in Yuba City, where he died December 19, 1948.

#### PAUL E. BARTSCHI

Paul arrived in Gridley July 1, 1952. It was a hot day, and with the help of Wilbur Mills, they unloaded the furniture he had brought with him. Irene and the children were still in Idaho waiting to join him. Just as they finished unloading the furniture, John Todd, from Bank of America, phoned and told Paul his father had passed away in Salt Lake City.

After the funeral Irene and the first four of our children came back to Gridley with Paul. The children were Larry, Glenna, Susan, Patricia. The next four children born here in Gridley were Helen, Paul II, Mark and Elizabeth. All 8 children are now married in the temple.

The first ten years of practice Paul had an old office upstairs at 906 Hazel St. Paul purchased land across the street from the Hospital on Spruce St. and built the Medical Center. Many Mormon doctors have been attracted to the Center. In order of arrival they are: Claude Thomas, Ward Mumford, Brian Tilby, Gary Jenkins, Albert Nielson, Steven Fales, and Jay Oldroyd. Doctors Mumford, Thomas and Tilby have moved, but in 1980 the rest are still practicing in Gridley. The Medical Center has been enlarged to accommodate the five practicing doctors.

On arriving in Gridley, Paul had just completed four years of Medical School at the University of Utah and a year internship in Stockton, Calif. Paul served in World War II for four years prior to Medical School, in the 82nd airborne division of the paratroopers. He was the communications officer for General Westmoreland.

Paul recalls the first years in Gridley, office calls were \$3.00. In the 28 years he has been in Gridley he says: "I have lived with the happiness of over 1000 births, and the sorrows of death. During this period I have delivered babies from some of the babies I delivered when I first came here."

Paul served on the High Council for 9 years and is currently the Superintendent of the Gridley II Ward Sunday School.

#### BRAMWELL FAMILY

The Bramwell family was among the early settlers of the Gridley area. Alfred Augustus Bramwell Jr. was born August 7, 1879 in Plain City, Utah. Maud Lucretia Farr was born January 1, 1883 in Ogden, Utah. Alfred and Maud were married on October 9, 1902 in the Salt Lake Temple. They made their home in the Lewisville-Coltman area in Idaho.

While residing there, three children were born, Elva, Alfred William and Margery. After receiving glowing reports about the Gridley area from Maud's father, William Freeman Farr, who had come to Gridley earlier, Alfred and Maud decided to see for themselves. When they arrived at the railroad depot on Feb. 7, 1907 and saw oranges, lemons and olives on the trees, they thought they had stepped into the Garden of Eden. It was love at first sight.

Maud and the children stayed while Alfred returned to Idaho to ship furniture, animals and equipment. They bought land in Colony 4 and built a home. Two daughters, Myrtle and Norma were born here. Alfred was plagued with malaria and in 1913 the family returned to the Idaho Falls area and farmed 320 acres of wheat. While living in Idaho, two more daughters were born, Clella and Marcella.

In 1920 the Bramwell family returned to the Gridley area where Alfred worked as a carpenter, building homes. In 1921 Alfred bought an acre lot on Colusa Road, just at the city limits and built a 10 room, 2 story home. It is a land mark, is in good condition and has a beautiful yard. Alfred was a good gardner, loved beautiful flowers, trees and shrubs. His daughter, Clella Hovlid, shares his gifts, for she has the old family home and keeps it looking beautiful.

Alfred followed the carpentry work for years, working for contractor, George W. Tolley. In later years he worked as watchman for Libby McNeil and Libby cannery. Alfred was active in church work. He held offices in different organizations, both in Idaho and California. Branch President, Sunday School Superintendent, etc. You would find Alfred, Maud and their children attending meetings and taking part in many official capacities, such as secretaries of Primary, MIA, Sunday School, Choir, Orchestra, etc.

On October 24, 1946, the youngest daughter, Marcella, went to Mexico on a two and one half year mission as a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints missionary.

Clella has reside here and served in the Biggs-Gridley Memorial Hospital for 30 years. She became the Administrator in 1953 and served in that capacity until her retirement in Sept. 1979.



Alfred Wm. (Bill) Bramwell served this community of Gridley and Chico for many years. He had the Gridley Pharmacy of Gridley and the Cent-s-ible Drug of Chico. He sold these and went into the newspaper business, becoming editor and publisher of the Chico-Enterprise Record newspaper from 1946 until his death in 1977.

Bill, as a young man, was active in church work and entertainment for the members, young and old. He organized and with the help of several church members, played in a small orchestra for the church dances and programs.

All of the Bramwell children married and had families. There are many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren who dearly loved this wonderful couple. There are fond memories of the large family get-togethers and love shared in this home.

Alfred and Maud continued to maintain a home in Gridley until Alfred passed away April 18, 1950. Maud divided her time between living in Utah with her daughter Marcella and family and her home in Gridley until her death October 27, 1967.

## CAMERON

Joseph Cameron was the son of pioneer parents, William Cameron and Jane Francis Lint who crossed the plains with the Aaron Johnson Company in 1850. He was born in Provo, Utah, 10 May 1854, the seventh of ten children. His youth was spent on the frontiers. His family were early settlers in St. George and later Panguitch, Utah.

The family of his wife, Lillis Minerva Barney were also early settlers of Provo and St. George. She was born 26 Aug. 1858 in Buffalo Grove, Ogle Co., Ill., the oldest of ten children born to Danielson Buren Barney and Laura Matthews.

They were married in St. George 6 Nov. 1876 and in the temple which had just been completed, Feb. 15, 1877. They made their home in Panguitch and five children were born to them there, Laura Jame, Joseph, Lilly Minerva, Milan Austorus and Grover.

In 1886 he was called on a mission to the Southern States. He was set apart by Apostle Heber J. Grant and served two years, most of which was in the Tennessee Conference. He was always active in affairs of the Church and served, in addition to other callings, as Stake Elder's Quorum President, Assistant Stake Sunday School Superintendent and High Councilor in the Panguitch Stake.

He was also active in civic affairs, serving as road supervisor, deputy sheriff and sheriff of Garfield County, school trustee, Garfield County Republican Party chairman, messenger in the first Utah State Senate, U.S. Court Commissioner and County Treasurer.

In 1904 the family moved to Idaho and after several moves there came to Gridley. They arrived Dec. 21, 1906, purchased a farm in Colony #4 on the northwest corner of present West Liberty Road and French Ave. and built a home there. They were active in the Church here also and Lillis Minerva was the first Relief Society President in Gridley.

By this time Grover, a young man of seventeen, was the only child still at home. He helped his father farm and level land which his father contracted. Land leveling was done with a team of horses and scraper at that time.

In 1911 he (Grover) was called on a mission to the Central States where he spent most of his time in Oklahoma. He and Omer Barrow, who was called at the same time, were the first missionaries called out of California.

Before leaving on his mission, he was engaged to Katie Price, daughter of William Price and Amanda Catherine Hendricks. She was born in Thatcher, Arizona 19 Feb. 1893. At the completion of his mission she met him in Salt Lake City and they were married in the temple there. To this couple were born nine children, Reva, Reuel, Lorin Price, Ruth Yvonne, Catherine Audel, Mary Edith, Eldon Grover, Effie and William Robert.

Between 1916 and 1919, Grover, his family, and his parents spent three years farming near Mayton, Siskiyou Co., Calif. but returned to Gridley where they remained. He has engaged in farming, carpenter work and later highway maintenance.

Always willing to serve in any capacity in the church, he has held numerous positions, among them President of the Liberty Branch, High Councilor in the Gridley Stake and filled three stake missions. As a carpenter he spent many hours remodeling the chapel at Sycamore Streets as well as building the Stake Center on Spruce Street and was always willing to give a helping hand to family and friend.

He died at his home 23 May 1962. His wife, Katie, is still with us. She too has been a faithful Latter Day Saint, working in the Church, primarily as secretary in the various organizations. She has filled two stake missions. Now, at the age of 87, she still does Relief Society teaching, sings in the choir,



works a weekly shift in the genealogy library, attends the Institute of Religion, joins a Monday morning study group and frequently visits the temple.

## CAMPBELL FAMILY

Thomas and Luella Campbell came to Gridley from Idaho about 18 months after Luella's parents, the William Cole Family, settled here. They bought property on Davis Road and settled in 1912. Thomas planted one of the first experimental rice crops in Butte County in 1914. The rice grew well, but unfavorable weather interfered with harvest and the crop was ruined. It did prove, however, that rice could be grown in adobe soil.

Thomas and Luella had nine children, twins Lawrence and Loren, Vera, Earl, Eldon, Wallace, Ivan, Marian, and Johnnie. All of the oldest children attended West Liberty School and all went to church at the Social Hall.

Luella taught school for about five years, then she worked at various jobs in Gridley as her family grew. She sold fabrics, did housework, worked in the local cannery and did laundry. She could not teach in California without more schooling so her school teaching was confined to Idaho. Luella was active in church and received the Quota Club Honor as one of the outstanding women in Gridley for service to family, church and community.

The family moved into town in 1923 and lived for a number of years on Ohio Street. As the children grew up the boys excelled in athletics and scholastics. At one time the four Campbell brothers and one other made up the Gridley High basketball team.

During World War II six of the seven Campbell brothers served in the armed forces at the same time. All came home unscathed.

There are eighty descendants of Thomas and Luella living today. Vera Anstead and Marian Passmore are the only members of the family still living in Gridley, but many live close to the home base area.

## CARLIN AND COLE FAMILIES

by Clifford Carlin

The Mormon Colony was founded in Gridley in 1906. A company of 11 people left Rexberg, Idaho on Nov. the 20th for California. In the party was George Cole and family. His wife Julia Goody Cole was the only woman in the party. On December 10, 1906 the first meeting of the church members was held in the home

of George Cole. Among those present were George and Julia Cole and their children James, Louis, Elizabeth and Arthur. A short time later President Joseph E. Robinson came to Gridley and organized the first branch of the church in Gridley with George Cole as President.

George Cole was President of the Gridley Branch for the first two years. By this time there had arrived over four hundred members. The Cole family purchased a farm on French Avenue in Colony #4 where they added two more children to their family, George G. Cole, nicknamed and known as Butter Cole and Alice Cole. Alice grew up in the Liberty Branch, attended West Liberty School and Gridley High School, graduating in 1930. She excelled in music, studying almost continuously most of her life. She continued her education at the Bauer Music Institute, San Francisco Conservatory of Music and the McCune School of Music in Salt Lake.

Both George and Julia Cole were devout members of the church all of their lives serving the Lord as instructors and leading the choir for many years. They both lived lives of sacrifice, losing their first three babies and devoting their time to raising their family and working in the church.

Alice married me on Nov. 12, 1933. She worked in the church all of her life right up until she passed away on Dec. 15, 1979. She served in the music departments of the church most of her life, her first position as primary organist when only nine years old, then as MIA organist, as choir director for Liberty Branch and Ward, as a member of MIA Stake Board, as a member of the Relief Society Stake Board, as a councilor in the Liberty Relief Society, as President of the Gridley Ward Relief Society, as Gridley Ward Choir Director, as Gridley Stake Music Director, as Gridley Stake Organist, as Gridley Sunday School Organist, as a member of Sacramento Stake MIA Board, as Sacramento Music Director of the MIA Youth Chorus for two years. She was always generous with her musical talents playing for countless funerals, weddings and receptions without charge.

Alice and I have three children: Larry, Gregory and Analee. She managed to pass on her musical talents to all three. Larry plays both piano and trumpet, Greg plays both piano and excels on the guitar, Analee plays both piano, guitar and has a fine singing voice. Larry teaches school in Live Oak having graduated from Chico State. Greg is a Doctor of Dental Surgery having graduated from BYU



and also Northwestern University School of Dentistry. Analee is also a teacher having graduated from Ricks College and BYU where she had advanced training in music. Larry and his wife, Joan, have four daughters; Paulette, Lori, Melissa, and Meredith. Greg married Marlene Peterson and they have two children; Carianne and Gregory and they are expecting another. Analee married Lorin Wiser a CPA. They have one son, Joshua.

I, Clifford Carlin, was born of goodly parents; Phebe Evans Carlin and Paul Alfred Carlin. My Grandparents; Reece R. Evans and Sarah Imlay Evans were early pioneers of Panguitch, Utah. They came to Gridley and purchased a farm on south Losser Avenue in 1908. My parents came a year later in 1909 and purchased a farm south of the Evans farm where my father proceeded to build a large home and filled it with children; Arthur, Pauline, Carl, Clifford, Fred, Louis, Maurice, Milton and Robert. They lost the last two children. My parents worked hard all of their lives and saw that we all received a good education and had good LDS church training. My parents taught us honesty and trained us all to work hard. There was not one lazy child in the Carlin Family. Two became farmers, one an artist, two teachers, one a merchant, one an electrical contractor, one a civil service career man. We all attended Gridley Schools. All have become good citizens.

I worked for Safeway Stores for six years, managed a store for them for three years. I then purchased Hewitts Food Store in 1938 and built a locker plant in 1943 in an adjoining building. I ran an orchard for two years during the war. In 1952 we moved to Sacramento where we operated a frozen food distributing company for two years. We moved back to Gridley in 1954. For the past twenty years we have owned and operated a furniture store.

Positions I have held in the Church are: Secretary in MIA Liberty Branch, served on Gridley Stake Sunday School Board, was in the Bishopric at Liberty Ward from 1940 to 1942, was in Gridley Ward Bishopric from 1942 to 1952, was a councilor in the Carmichael Sunday School, was on the MIA Stake Board in Sacramento, was president of the MIA in Gridley Ward, taught the Gospel Doctrine class in Gridley Ward for fifteen years, served two Stake Missions and have been the instructor to the Gridley Ward High Priests Group for the last twenty five years. I am presently the Genealogy instructor in the Gridley Ward Sunday School. Alice and I have our temple endowments and have attended the temple as often as her health would permit.

## CLARK

My Grandfather Evan Oscar Clark, more commonly known to his friends as E.O. was born 26 Sept. 1877 in Addison, Gallia Co. Ohio. He married Mary Louanna Jones 30 Oct. 1897. To this union was born four girls and two boys. The boys died at a very early age. The girls were Ida, Effie, Alice and Virgie.

When Ida was about 1 year old they moved from near Charleston, West Virginia to Merram, Utah in about 1899 or 1900.

There Grandfather Clark served in the YMMIA from 1903 to 1904, as a councilor in a Bishopric from 1904 to 1911. Then he became Bishop. He also served as City Councilman from 1907 to 1908.

From there he went to Menan, Idaho where he was very active in church activities. He left his family and served as President of the Northern California Mission for some time.

He must have liked California because he negotiated a trade of his home in Menan to George Larsen for his home in Gridley. The family then made their home in Gridley. He served as Branch President with George Tolley and Marion Francis as his councilors. He was always active in church work.

A portrait of Grandpa is in the "Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah Part 1". Also a short biography in Part 2.

Submitted by Vera Hughes

## COE

Sylvester Coe and his wife, Terencha Raigner Coe, were early settlers in the Gridley area. Sylvester and his wife were born in the Shenandoah valley, Frederick Co., Virginia. They had seven children, two of their children, Bessie and Oral, came with them to Gridley and lived here all their lives.

The family moved from Virginia to Ohio in 1901, later they moved to Oregon and lived for several years. They were then encouraged to move here by Sylvester's son-in-law and daughter, Charles and Bessie Sannar. They settled in the Biggs area then later about 1911 they bought property here in Gridley and built their homes in the West Liberty District.

Their son, Oral Vernon Coe, was a young man when they moved to Gridley and he met Nellie Campbell while she was driving a horse and buggy coming home from town accompanied by her mother. They were almost to the Campbell Ranch when they came upon Oral and a number of men moving a house



down the road. Her horse shied off the road toward the ditch, and Oral came up and led her horse past the house. Later, this young woman became his wife and they were happily married for 60 years.

Nellie's folks also were early settlers in the Gridley area. She was born in Dayton, Idaho on a 840 acre ranch. She was the daughter of Garret LeRoy Campbell and Clara C. Campbell. There were 6 children in her family. Nellie's grandparents, Jared and Polly Campbell, were early pioneers and came out from Nauvoo with the Mormon wagon train. When they arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley, gold was discovered in California so later they came to California and settled in Sacramento. Nellie's grandparents had two children at the time they arrived in Sacramento, and later Nellie's father was born there. Her mother was born in Illinois and her family also moved to Sacramento. Her mother and father were raised there and later met and were married. After Nellie's oldest sister was born, the family, including Grandfather Campbell, moved from Sacramento to Idaho and started ranching.

When Nellie was eight years old her grandfather Campbell died and her Dad had him sent back to Sacramento for burial and Nellie and her family attended the funeral. The train ride to California was a great adventure for her.

The family moved from Idaho to California when Nellie was 17 years old. She met Oral Vernon Coe a year later. They were married by Bishop George Tolley, and later in the Salt Lake Temple.

To this union were born two sons, Glen of Vallejo, and Harvey who preceded his father and mother in death, and one daughter, Evelyn Whitaker of Gridley. While living in Gridley, Oral was employed by the City of Gridley, and the water districts. After their son Harvey died, they moved to Oroville. There he was employed by the Oroville-Wyandotte irrigation District, and also raised cattle.

Upon his retirement, Oral and Nellie returned to Gridley to make their home on Larkin Road near their son-in-law and daughter, George and Evelyn Whitaker and grandson Roger Whitaker.

### **WILLIAM JAMES COLE**

In his journal William James Cole wrote: "In the winter of 1906 I received a letter from my brother George at Gridley, California. I was greatly surprised, thinking that my brother was still in Rexburg. I answered the letter, asking him to tell me all about the country.

When he replied, I decided to make a trip down to see for myself. My wife had always expressed a desire to go to California.

Early in March, 1907 his sons, Jasper and Newman, accompanied him to Shelton, making the two day trip in a wagon. The boys returned to Elba and William "got the first train for California." He arrived in Sacramento early Sunday morning and came to Gridley in time for sacrament services at 2 P.M. "A man by the name of Frank Dewsnap took me to the place, a private home on Hazel Street. My brother, George, was the presiding elder, and he called on me to speak. It was a happy reunion, as I had not seen George for several years."

"A Mr. Burleson, editor of the Gridley Herald, would take us anywhere we wanted to go....I selected 20 acres in the north corner of Colony 7, adjoining Colony 4."

He told of the flood in Live Oak in 1907, and of chickens and pigs swimming about the door of his brother's home. He returned to Idaho, and after selling their home and various livestock, grain, and household effects, he brought his family to Gridley in November, 1908. On the train they brought livestock, which were quartered temporarily "in 20 acres which the church had set apart for that purpose."

His brother had rented for them "a house in town for \$8 a month. Here they lived for a few weeks until they could move into their partially-completed house.

William Cole served a variety of church positions, mostly as a teacher. He taught a Gospel Doctrine Sunday School class for many years, never missing a Sunday. If anyone invited him to accompany them on a trip, he made sure that it would be within the frame of Monday morning to Saturday evening. He believed that if one had a position to serve nothing short of death should prevent his attendance!

Descendants living in Gridley in 1980 include grandchildren; Melvin Justeson, Myrtle Lind, Marion Passmore, Willard Cole, Geraldine Onstine, Vera Anstead, and June Hagberg.

### **JOSEPH DAVIS FAMILY**

Joseph Davis was born in 1861 in Wales. He came to the U.S. with his parents at the age of 9 and settled in Pennsylvania. At age 22 he moved to Preston, Idaho for a year and then to Montana for 5 years where he worked as a railroad engineer. He returned to Preston in 1887 and married Matilda Johnson. He was a farmer and a newspaperman and studied law



for four years and served as a clerk for the federal land commission. He was District Attorney of Oneida Co. He resigned to become a judge of bankruptcy court. He was also influential in the building of dams and irrigation systems in southern Idaho.

He became ill in 1911 and moved to Old Mexico for a year. In 1912 the family moved to Gridley and purchased another farm. With the help of his father-in-law, he built a cement block house on Dewsnap Rd. They also owned a farm northwest of Gridley on the Colusa highway where they lived for many years, returning to the cement house as a permanent home after selling the larger farm in the mid 30's. He was widely read and was often consulted for legal opinions.

Joseph and Matilda had four children: Ivanhoe, Lenore, Martin and Caleb. Martin is the only living child and resides in Sacramento. Four grandchildren also survive, three of which were raised in Gridley and attended West Liberty branch, they are the children of Ivanhoe. Grant, Jean and Margery. The other grandson is Caleb's son Merritt who lives in Sacramento. They celebrated 64 years of marriage. Joseph died in 1951 the oldest member of the church at the time and his was the first funeral held in the new church. Matilda died in 1953 at age 81.

Joseph served two missions for the church, one to Mexico and one to Wales.

## NED DAVIS

In the fall of 1925, my father and mother decided to leave Marysville, Idaho and move to Gridley, California. My two older sisters were living here. They came in 1919. My sisters married the two youngest sons of John and Bessie Hill. There were four families who came about the same time. The Hills, Farnworths and two Spratling families.

The girls found a place here that was for lease, 160 acres known as the S.A. Mealey place, so Dad decided to move here and try it out.

It took us 10 days to travel from Idaho to Gridley, arriving here Nov. 26th, which was Thanksgiving Day. My brother Verl and his friend Theron Spencer came a few weeks ahead of time. As we reached the Sacramento Valley and saw the summer weather it was really something. There was snow when we left Idaho. To pick ripe oranges from trees was a real treat to us. We didn't wear coats the first winter here.

Neil, June and I attended school in Manzanita and the family attended church in Liberty Branch. I graduated from Manzanita and attended High School in Gridley. My freshman year was the first class to attend the beautiful new High School building in 1928.

Uncle Ed McGavins family, Aunt Bertha and Blake, Bess, and Edna came in the spring of 1926.

Dad and Mother passed away in 1948. Leland lives in Palermo, June Leach in Paradise, my twin brother Neil in Wilseyville and Verl and I are both living in Gridley, Elva Reneau of Idaho and Tressa Hill of Washington.

I married Charlotte May Burbank in 1932. We have four daughters. I was released as clerk of the Gridley Stake after serving over 33 years. Sustained Sept. 24, 1944 and released Nov. 6, 1977. I have served with all four stake presidencies that have served the stake to date. I also served for a time as a President of the 249th quorum of Seventy. In the years I have served I have met with the last six president of the Church, nearly 200 General Authorities, General Board members and Regional Representatives. Also 115 High Counselors.

At the time of my call there were 5 wards and one branch in the Stake. It grew to 14 wards and 3 branches.

I worked at Camp Beale while it was being built and after the war I helped tear down two barracks at Camp Beale. The lumber from these was used to build the new Stake Center. I helped with the entire construction of the stake center. I worked for Libby, McNeill and Libby cannery until 1949. I then followed construction work until the stake center was completed in 1951. I then went to work there as custodian and worked there for 25 years until I retired in 1976. I have four daughters, Eva Thorpe and Carolee Sannar of Gridley, Jean Dorhofer of Chehalis, Washington and Nedra Bassett of Gridley.

I also drove school bus, took care of a laundromat and took care of the Bishops Storehouse. I also took care of Stake baptisms for over 27 years.

I am now serving on the High Council of the Gridley Stake.

I was the 9th child of a family of 6 boys and 5 girls. My parents were Peter Winn Davis and Ida Belle Wheeler. I was born May 12, 1912 in Marysville, Idaho. I now have 13 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.



## HYRUM DEWSNUP

Hyrum Dewsnap was born in Manchester, Lancashire, England, 2 May 1852. He was baptized in Manchester, along with his parents, when he was eleven years old by Mormon missionaries who were laboring in the area.

Soon after being baptized, the family moved to America and settled in Deseret, Utah. Here he grew up, met and married Emily Mace. They built and operated the general store. He also had a drayage business, hauling freight from Salt Lake into Nevada, Arizona and Mexico.

When they had five children, Edward, Bertha, Lois, Frank and Elizabeth, Hyrum was called on a mission to England. Their sixth child, Ernest, was born while he was on his mission. In England, as a missionary, he met a family of saints by the name of Rotherham. They had a daughter, Elizabeth Emma, who had come to Utah with her uncle, Charles Western, and settled in Deseret, Utah. After Hyrum's return from his mission, he met Elizabeth and received permission from his first wife, Emily, to marry Elizabeth Emma Rotherham as his second wife. By this marriage he had six children, Laura, George, Arthur, Ruby and twins who lived only a few hours. Their mother, Elizabeth, died when the twins were born. Six more children, Claud, Eva, Elsie, Joseph Asell, Clara and William Cecil, were born to Hyrum and Emily. Joseph Asell and William Cecil died young.

Later, he and his wife, Emily, and fifteen children moved to Rexburg, Idaho where he operated a general store and farmed several hundred acres. He was also mayor of Rexburg just prior to their move to California.

His health was poor and because of the cold weather in Rexburg, he desired to live in a milder climate. He met Mr. Gilstrap, a real estate broker from Gridley, California, who persuaded him to come to Gridley. After getting permission and the blessing of President Joseph F. Smith, Hyrum made several trips to Gridley and took an option on the Gridley Hotel and 722 acres of land in Colonies four and seven.

On one trip to Gridley, he returned with several boxes of fruit and vegetables, then invited many of his friends in Rexburg to dinner on a Sunday afternoon. About forty people came to dinner and were interested in going to Gridley, but local church leaders discouraged the move.

November 12, 1906, while Apostle John Henry Smith and Rulon S. Wells, President of the Seventy's Quorum, were in Rexburg for the purpose of dedicating Rick's Academy, Hyrum spoke to Apostle Smith concerning colonization in California. He said it was all right and "God bless you."

The first group left Rexburg the 20th of November 1906 and arrived in Gridley the 22nd.

When the Gridley Branch was organized, Hyrum refused to be president because he ran the hotel where liquor was sold.

He and his family lived in the hotel. His girls waited tables and cleaned the rooms. He soon found this was not the right environment for his family, so, after two years, gave up the hotel and built a home on Cherry (now Richins) Avenue, a very beautiful home just north of the canal. (It still stands).

The sudden and untimely death of Hyrum Dewsnap on 25 February 1911 was mourned by many.

## JUNIOR DEWSNUP

Junior Hyrum Dewsnap was born 21 July 1925 in Gridley, California, son of George and Orlean Dewsnap. Since they were members of the LDS Church, he was baptized by his father at the age of eight.

When he was a senior in high school, he joined the U.S. Navy and served three and a half years. He was on the same ship the whole time.

After his discharge from the service, he returned to Gridley and married Beatrice Pike. To them, three boys and one daughter were born.

Junior had a love for music. He played the saxophone at church dances, parties and at home for people to enjoy.

He held various jobs in the church and community, worked with the boy scouts and enjoyed teaching them Morse Code since he was a signalman in the Navy. As bishop of the Second Ward, he learned to love and appreciate all the members of the Ward. The young priests of the ward especially loved him and he enjoyed taking them to Conference to tour Salt Lake and to feel the spirit of the brethren at Conference.

He worked at Libby, McNeil, and Libby Cannery from the time he returned from the



service until he became a full time peach and pumpkin farmer. He then sold his produce to Libby's.

He had a strong testimony of the Gospel and loved to share it with others. The Lord felt it time to take him 28 Jan. 1971.

### EVANS FAMILY

Reese R. Evans and Sarah Evans, parents of eleven children, left Panquitch, Utah, to come to Gridley in Nov. of 1907, bringing with them their five youngest children, of these, only James was married. He farmed in Gridley until the mid 30's and then moved to Oroville with his family.

Eliza (Lila) the oldest daughter of Reese and Sarah, married Thomas Schow in Utah. They moved to Gridley in 1910, where they farmed until their retirement. Tom played in the band at Social Hall and Lila worked in the Mutual program. She lived to be 90 years old.

Another daughter, Phebe, married Paul A. Carlin in Utah on June 6, 1907. The family moved to Gridley in March of 1909 to join Phebe's parents. Paul grew peaches for Libby's for 50 years and was one of the organizers of 2056 Drainage District. Phebe was a loving wife and mother, and also had time for church work - she served on Relief Society Stake Board and taught classes in ward relief society. She was 91 when she passed away, living a full and productive life. Many of Paul and Phebe's family still live in and around the Gridley area.

### FARNWORTH FAMILY

Late in the years of 1918 and early 1919, the following families came to Gridley after leaving Ashton, Idaho our home for many years. Hyrum Farnworth Sr., Hyrum Farnworth Jr., Nathan Farnworth, John W. Hill, Bert Hill, Earnest Spratling and Phillip Spratling.

Later on in the years following the remainder of the Families as well as friends joined us here in Gridley, which was a small but a prosperous town. There have been many changes made since we arrived here.

We are all members of the LDS Church and were active in taking part in the various callings or where ever we were needed.

The winters in Idaho were very long and cold and lots of snow so we thought a change in climate would be a good thing. We bought ranches and did most all types of farming and jobs pertaining to farm life. We have enjoyed

our lives here and enjoyed the friendship of the people here.

Written by one of the surviving members.  
Bernes Spratling Farnworth

### THE FARR FAMILY

William Freeman Farr moved to Gridley from Lewisville, Idaho in 1907, with his wife Anna, daughters Lillian and Carrie, sons Clarence and Lavaughn. He brought 18 head of horses with him and started a drayage business. He hauled gravel for the construction of the Bank of Italy, located on Hazel Street. He also hauled gravel when building 99E through Gridley.

William leveled land for many farmers around Gridley and helped develop the irrigation and drainage systems in this area. William's sons, Clarence and Lavaughn started the Farr Bros. Sand and Gravel in the early 1940's. They purchased 37 acres from William Fife which was located on Palm Ave. the west bank of the Feather River. The fifth generation of Farr's is presently residing in Gridley.

### THE FERRIN FAMILY

On March 2, 1926 Adna Ferrin and Sarah Lillian Ferrin moved to Gridley, Calif. having sold their ranch in Metropolis, Elko Co., Nevada. They came by train down the Feather River Canyon from snow and wind to beautiful spring. They bought a 10 acre fruit ranch about 1 1/2 miles west of Gridley.

Adna served for a time in the Bishopric and was High Priest President of the Gridley Stake. Although he shied away from being before the public he supported his wife in anything she wanted or needed to do.

Lilly was made President of the Primary of the Gridley Ward from Dec. 1926 until Oct. of 1930 although she was Pres. of Primary altogether for 22 years. She also worked in the Relief Society and MIA. Lilly died in Nov. 1932 of cancer. After her death she was honored on Mothers Day in the Gridley Ward as the "Outstanding Latter Day Saint Mother".

Adna sold his ranch in 1935 and moved to a small house next to his daughter and husband Jesse and Mabel Jensen on Sycamore St. On Oct. 1952 Adna fell and broke his hip and then in April of 1953 he broke the other hip and thereafter was in a resthome in Chico. He passed away in June of 1954.

There were nine children born to this couple. Among the children that settled with



their families around Gridley were Mabel F. Jensen, Florence Jensen, Wallace Ferrin, Don Ferrin, Mildred Call and Phil Ferrin. They left a wonderful heritage and the posterity are too numerous to include. Their children who still survive them are: Don E. Ferrin of Chico, Calif., Phil Ferrin of Vallejo, Calif. and Mildred Call of Hyrum, Utah.

### THE DONALD S. FIFE FAMILY

Donald Stewart Fife, his wife Betty and their one year old son Gary, moved after World War II to Gridley, July 1, 1946 to live on his father's small 10 acre almond and walnut orchard located on the N/E corner of Losser Avenue and West Liberty Road. In addition to farming he took employment with the Golden State Creamery, formerly the Farmers Cooperative Creamery, as Asst. Office Manager. Shortly thereafter he was called to be ward clerk to Bishop W.C. Jensen in the old church building on Vermont Street.

Desiring to be an independent businessman he opened his own insurance agency in his home after attending school and obtaining his licenses. About a year later he purchased the Chase Insurance Agency, 824 Hazel St., Gridley, which had been there since 1926. Soon it became the Fife Insurance Service which he operated until he and Betty were called in March 1977, as full-time missionaries in the Ireland Dublin Mission. Upon his return he sold his business to his son Gary who presently is carrying on under the same name but in a new building and location on Spruce Street.

Bro. Fife held many positions in the church during his years in Gridley both in the Ward and Stake. Among the most memorable in the YMMIA Presidency; Sunday School Presidency; teacher in Priesthood, Sunday School and MIA; First and Second Counselor to Bishop Howard C. Sannar and when the Sannars moved into Gridley 1 Ward, he became Bishop in October 1955, one of his most rewarding experiences. He was released in November 1959 due to failing health.

He was very civic minded and for several years was the guiding force as Secty-Treas. of the Gridley District Chamber of Commerce; President of the Red Cross, Gridley Chapter; President of the Butte County Insurance Agents Assn.; President of the Gridley Community Club and in 1965 was President of the Gridley Rotary Club, the first LDS member to hold this position.

Bro. and Sis. Fife have been greatly blessed during the 34 years they have resided in Gridley, especially with four fine children and seven grandchildren. In addition to Gary they have Linda, Dennis and Becky; all have graduated from BYU; three have filled honorable full-time missions and all have married in the temple except Becky who is still available. They all are active and presently serving the Lord in various capacities. Betty too has always held important positions in the church, the most satisfying being her mission and as Relief Society President under Bishop Junior H. Dewsnup.

Presently Bro. and Sis. Fife are serving as Stake Missionaries and Stake Communication Directors.

### ROBERT L. FIFE - MR. MUSIC TEACHER

Robert L. Fife was born in Ogden, Utah; lived in Metropolis, Nevada; moved to Gridley in 1924. He started piano lessons at age nine with Martha Bond, a well known local teacher. He attended local schools and while in high school played trumpet and clarinet in the concert band and cello in the symphony orchestra. Bob graduated from Sacramento City College where he studied piano with Dr. Holland Frazee. He played in the college band and sang in the A cappella Choir.

Lacking sufficient funds to continue school he took employment with Bank of America in Gridley and worked 5 years. He married the Bishop's daughter, Marvis Jensen in the Salt Lake Temple. He decided to go back to school attended U. of C. at Davis, studying landscape design and plant materials. He received his music degree in piano from the Sherwood Conservatory in Chicago and has studied with Dr. Robert Pace of Columbia Univ.

Bob says he started his career in music by playing in Primary and Sunday School and gives the church a great deal of credit for any success he has had. He was ward organist for over 20 years. He played piano with the All Star Orchestra for 19 years. He has played for many funerals, weddings and receptions. He has been teaching piano and organ in Gridley since 1953.

Bob believes in community service and served for 24 years on the Gridley Union Elementary School board, is a life member of P.T.A., member of California and Butte Co. Music Teachers Assoc., past president of Gridley Rotary Club and the club pianist for 14 years.



Bob and Marvis built a home on West Liberty Road in 1954 and had four children; Allen, Doug, Barbara and David. All attended BYU and there they found their mates and were married in the temple.

Marvis served 10 years as Relief Society President under three bishops; Junior Dewsnup - Richard McDowell - Grant Probst. She is presently serving on the Gridley Stake Relief Society Board and is a member of California Social Services of the church.

Bob was 1st Counselor to Bishop Grant Probst for 6 years and currently is serving on the Gridley Stake High Council; having served under three Stake Presidents for a total of 20 years.

### **RANDOLPH FIFE FAMILY**

Randolph W. and Mabel E. Fife arrived in Gridley from Orange County, Calif. on Feb. 25, 1928. They brought five children; Randolph, Gwendolyn, Helen-Joe, Calvin, and Mabel. They built a home on North Ave. (later changed to Gridley Colony Rd. and then to Little Road) where James and Florence were born.

Randolph was a plastering contractor and worked on many buildings in this area. He worked on the McKinley School, the Butte Theater and the Bank of America. He was sustained as branch president of the Gridley Branch after Pres. James Pryde was released to go on a mission to Scotland. Later when the Gridley Stake was organized he became the first Bishop of the Gridley Ward. He was ordained in Jan. 1935 by Apostle Stephen L. Richards. He was bishop for over five years and was released because of ill health. He died at the age of 51 on Nov. 14, 1943.

Mabel was always active in the church organizations. When the stake was organized she became the Stake Primary President, a position she held for 14 years. She was also active in community affairs. She was the second PTA president in Gridley schools and later became the 13th District PTA President. She was on the Red Cross Board for many years. After the death of her husband she married Randolph's brother, Leland Fife in 1951 and moved to Burlingame for nine years. When Leland retired they returned and built a home at 348 Haskel St. He died shortly after. She later remarried again, this time to David Robertsin March 1971. He died in June of the same year.

Information concerning their children is as follows:

Randolph E. married Norma Berry in the Salt Lake Temple. They have five children. He served a mission to the Southern States and served in the army in Italy during World War II. He was in the Bishopric when the new church was built. His wife Norma was killed in an automobile accident in 1960 and he later remarried Barbara Seymour. She had three boys. Seven of their children are married now. Randy and Barbara live in Fullerton, Ca.

Gwen went on a mission and when she returned she married John V. Bushman. They have 7 children who were raised here in Gridley. Gwen died in Feb. 1977.

Helen-Joe married Lorin Stoddard. They have five boys and are now living in Auburn. Loren is currently the Bishop of the Auburn Ward. He is retired from the Air Force.

Calvin B. went on a mission to Canada after getting out of the service. He married Valeta McCaslin. They have seven children which includes two sets of twins. He is a building inspector in Phoenix, Ariz.

Mabel E. went to BYU where she met and married Richard McDowell. They moved back to Gridley and both taught school here for many years. They have seven children.

James went on a mission to France. He then attended BYU and later Sycacuse Univ. where he obtained his doctorate degree in language. He married Irene Reim. They have seven children. He is now a professor of languages at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Florence attended BYU and met and married Otto L. Draper. Otto is an electronic engineer. They have seven children. They now live in Sunnyvale, Ca.

Randolph and Mabel have a large posterity. There are 48 grandchildren and 71 great grandchildren. Most of their children are college graduates, all are busy in church duties and 26 of their posterity have served missions.

### **REA GARDNER FAMILY**

Rea was born Dec. 6, 1891. He served a mission in 1910 and then spent two summers following the Mormon Trail from Vermont to Salt Lake City. He was a railway mail clerk in Ogden for 3 years. He worked as a railroad journeyman machinist and then as a plane wrecking operator.

In June of 1920 he moved to Santa Anna, Calif. Here he served as Ward Clerk for 8 years. He married Pansy, and they moved to Garden Grove. Here they heard about the community of Gridley from a friend, namely



Randolph Fife, and moved their family to Gridley. They bought 10 acres on the corner of Richins Ave.

While Pansy and her daughters Faith and Dixie, set up housekeeping; Rea and the boys: Don-Hal-Jack-Vere-Allen-Colin, raised peaches and dairy cattle. Rea was named, some years later, as Farmer of the Year for his advances in hay chopping.

Zoe and Milo were born in Gridley during the early years. Pansy was an avid genealogist and also searched much of the Gardner name before her death in 1966.

Four of the boys served their country and returned. Most of the children married and eventually moved away. Vere and Hal still reside in Gridley.

### THE GATTIKERS

August Gattiker was born in Schoenberg, Switzerland in 1873. At age 28 he joined the church and came to America. They went to Texas, Idaho, Salt Lake City and then to Mexico in covered wagons, then to Arizona and Oregon, all in a short period of time. While living in Oregon they heard of a small Mormon colony in Chico, California, namely Vina. From there August found Gridley and said "this is the place".

He bought land in Gridley in West Liberty area and moved his wife and mother to that area. They lived there four years and then heard of Ruby Valley, Nevada, and decided to go. The weather being so cold made their thoughts turn back to California and after a few other places they rebought the original ranch in Gridley for \$500 less than the original purchase.

August kept purchasing land in Gridley, fixed them up, planted and resold, he and his family lived and sold 14 different places in Gridley.

August had two sons, Theo and Warner, and two daughters, Mildred and Emily. August spent his last years living with his daughter Emily in Provo, Utah and passed away Apr. 4, 1961 at age of 88.

Jacob, his brother, never married but lived his life in Gridley and passed away at age of 97.

Theo has spent his life in Gridley since 1910. At the age of 17 he went to Alhambra, Calif. to learn the plastering trade. He married Hannah Albers of Nebraska, who was studying to become a nurse. They had two daughters, Barbara and Rita.

### CARL HAGBERG FAMILY

When two Mormon missionaries serving in Sweden contacted my parents, Per John and Maris Louisa Hagberg, they accepted the gospel. After many discouraging experiences, they came to America, settling first in Canada, where my father assisted in the building of the temple in Alberta.

We moved to Siskiyou County, and then to Gridley in 1921 when I was twelve years old. I was the fourth child; three older boys had died in infancy.

In Gridley my father did some truck gardening and worked at carpentering or whatever labor he could find to do. He maintained a strong testimony of the gospel, studied the scriptures, worked cheerfully, and was appreciative of the opportunities afforded in America.

My parents taught me to work, and I have always found satisfaction in performing physical labor. When I was sixteen my father took a job clearing the terrain to create Buck's Lake. He considered this a fine opportunity for me to earn, and to help him and Mother "get ahead". I left high school, which I was enjoying greatly, to go to work. Scarcely a day since then have I been "unemployed". Even in my "retirement", almost every day I have the opportunity to repair or fix something for someone.

I worked in fields and harvest, carried "hod" for Randolph Fife; oiled on a gold dredger, was a city maintenance employee, worked as carpenter at Camp Beale, have been a plumber, was employed by the Gridley High School as custodian and bus driver, felled and trimmed trees. Most of the time I found enjoyment in all of the work.

I have served in a number of church positions: as bishop's counselor, in the Sunday School Superintendency, in the MIA Presidency, on auxiliary stake boards, as stake missionary, and in scouting, which has always been a special field to me.

In June, 1938, I married June Cole, whom I had courted for seven years. She sensed responsibilities to her aging grandfather and other family members for whom she kept house while attending high school, Chico State College, and three years of teaching. I had set a goal to provide a home of their own for my parents - something they had never had - before I married.

We were married in the Salt Lake Temple, and returned to Gridley to begin building our home. I had purchased five acres, for which I paid \$750, on which Dad and I had built my parents' home.



We have five dutiful and loving children who, with their companions, and our nineteen (1980) marvelous grandchildren, give joy and meaning to our lives.

Robin served a mission in Brazil, graduated from BYU., married Susanne White, teaches school in Paradise. Merrie Jill attended BYU., graduated from Chico State, filled a mission in Peru, married Arthur Hayden, lives in Gridley. Carol Gay graduated from BYU., taught in Utah, married Earl McDaniel, lived in Kentucky and Wyoming, and now lives in Gridley. Eric attended Yuba College and College of Eastern Utah, married Deborah McWilliams, is employed at Libby's is my right hand when I need help. Lowell attended BYU., served a mission in Bolivia, married Kay Mueller, lives in Biggs, and works as a construction contractor.

At present my church duties include home teaching, name extraction missionary, and temple worker. I love the Lord, my family and the gospel. Carl E. Hagberg

#### GEORGE EDMOND HENDRIX FAMILY

George Edmond Hendrix gave a lot of service to his community. From early 1940 to 1950 he served as 4-H leader, and helped a lot of young people. He was one of the organizers of the Butte County Calf derby Assoc. In the late 1940's he received an Honorary Chapter Farmer Award from the Butte Co. Ag teachers. He was active on the Legislative committee of both the Farm Bureau and the Grange. He was director of the Associated Sportsmen of Calif. and served as president of the organization for two terms. While in the organizations legislative committee he was partially responsible for the passage of two major bills to the Calif. people.

1. The establishment of road side rest areas for motorists.

2. The removal of commercial fishing nets from the inland waters of the State of Calif.

In 1959 he was honored by the Associated Sportsmen as Sportsman of the Year. He invented a seed thrasher that eliminated the rod and support rod that were in the middle of the seed thrashers of that day.

He and his wife Silva were foster parents to many children and upon his death in 1961 at age of 54, Silva continued to be a foster mother and helped many many children, many of whom joined the church under her leadership. She was still serving as a foster parent to the time of her death.

#### IRA M. JENSEN

These are the facts: Ira was born Oct. 2, 1908 in Grover, Star Valley, Wyoming. When he was only a few years old, he moved with his family to Metropolis, Nevada. It was here that he spent his youth, although he did spend some time in Burley and Oakley, Idaho. But he graduated from high school in Metropolis and was the valedictorian of his graduating class. He courted Ellen Hyde and married her on June 12, 1929 in the Salt Lake Temple. They resided in Metropolis until the fall of 1934, when they moved with their family to Gridley, California. Two children, Shirley and Hal were born in Nevada, and their last child, Steven, was born in Gridley.

In California, Ira pursued many different jobs, but the main ones were as a plastering contractor, and later as a builder of fine homes, which he would design and build himself. In 1969, he and his sweetheart moved to Springville, Utah where he continues to reside. Ellen, his wife, passed away following a long illness on May 6, 1980 and was buried in Metropolis, Nevada.

Those are the facts. But beyond that, looking at the man, we find one of uncommon goodness, graciousness and compassion. He was an extremely strong man, and on at least one occasion, in fun, "took down" three young men in their late teens, without even so much as breathing hard. He simply piled one atop the other, and sat himself on the top of them all. But with all his strength, he is extremely tender and compassionate. He cared for Ellen in times of extreme illness and suffering on her part. This was an all-day, all-night responsibility, but he was equal to it and helped her to have as much comfort as was possible under the circumstances. He is generous almost to a fault, and would assist someone else at the drop of a hat. He gives time and energy generously to the church, and has filled many callings with devotion and skill. His testimony is strong and unwavering. Truly, here is a man to match the mountains.

To Steven Hyde Jensen

by his mother, Ellen Hyde Jensen

I have been asked several times how it feels to be a mother of a Bishop and later a Stake President. It is something you feel in your heart, but which I find hard to describe. Gratitude, I guess describes it best. Gratitude



to my Heavenly Father for the privilege, for it has been a blessing not only to me but all our family. Most profound I know is the knowledge he is an answer to prayer.

A home without prayer is but a shadow. Before a babe is born is when you walk hand in hand with God. When we knew a new baby was expected, my companion and I knelt in special prayer every night petitioning the Lord to send us a noble choice spirit and in this I feel our prayers were answered. It has been a sweet experience to raise Steven. I say "Sweet" because Steven's personality has made everything around him a little sweeter. Everything was joy and happiness to him. He loved a good joke, a pun, a funny story and was adept in telling them. In every way he made our home a lively happy place.

When Steven was laid in my arms after his birth, how could I ever guess he would some day be my Bishop. He was just a warm fat baby, crowned with my love and gratitude. But as my Bishop he was an assigned servant of the Lord. As he interviewed me for a Temple Recommend, or at tithing settlement, I respected him in his calling. At home he was my son, but in his official capacity I respected him in his calling.

#### JESSE L. JENSEN

In May of 1932 after a real severe winter and in the middle of the worst depression in U.S. history, Jesse L. Jensen and Mabel F. Jensen and their six children, five girls and one boy, moved to Gridley, Calif. They bought a home at the west end of Sycamore St. across from Funks Market. Both Jesse and Mabel were very active church members.

Jesse filled two stake missions, was teacher of the High Priests Group, and was very active in all phases of the church, having many teaching opportunities. Because of his philosophy of life and talent of writing poetry and his wide circle of friends, he was called often through the years to give the sermons at funerals.

He was a very avid sports fan. Jesse worked for many years for the Walter Jansen Feed Mill, also a short time for the Gridley-Biggs Water District. He worked a few years as Building Inspector for the City of Gridley, and then as Custodian for the Gridley High School where he worked until his retirement.

Mabel worked for many summers as Forelady at Libby, McNeil and Libby in Gridley. She spent about twenty five years as Relief Society President in Nevada and

Gridley. She was a very loveable and dedicated worker. She was released in Oct. 1944 to become a councilor in the Stake Relief Society Presidency. This position she held until her death in Nov. of 1953.

Jesse married Tracy Bushy in June of 1956. He died March 14th 1971 in Gridley, Calif.

The six children of Jesse and Mabel Jensen who survive them are: Leone Peterson, Beth Roberts, Marie Smith of Gridley, Calif.; Arlene Dial, Bodell Balli of Salt Lake City, Utah and Dale F. Jensen of Lakeport, Calif. There are twenty one grandchildren and twenty eight great grandchildren.

#### REUBEN A. JENSEN FAMILY

Reuben was born in Grover, Wyoming, 8 August, 1894. He went to Metropolis, Nevada at the age of 16 to work and his family soon located in that Mormon settlement. He met Florence Ferrin there and they were married 8 June 1916 in the Salt Lake Temple. They worked hard but finally in 1930 after economic reverses they left Metropolis and came to Gridley. There were six children by then: Carl, Bruce, Doug, Lucille, Lois and Beatrice. Lenard was born here in Gridley before the family had all arrived and were settled.

They bought a little farm out on Justeson Road that had a peach orchard and room for cows, horses, dogs, chickens and children. They raised a large garden and Florence canned all she could. Reub was working for Stuke Nursery for 15 cents per hour. Times were tough but the family was tougher and they managed to make it through and to instill in their children a knowledge of how to work and a desire to make something of themselves.

One of the ways Rueb made a little extra money was to pick the peaches, carefully wrap and pack them in boxes and, enlisting the aid of a neighbor with a truck, they hauled the fruit back across Nevada, selling the much desired peaches along the way. They almost gave it up, however, when, in backing the truck through an alley to the back of a store in a small town, they ran over the top of an old septic tank with the heavily loaded truck and it fell into the hole. It took a day to hoist and pull the truck out and then they went on their merry way.

Florence worked in the cannery to supplement the family income, as did many of the women in Gridley. Reub and the boys milked cows and sold the milk. The kids worked in the summer in the prune fields and at what ever jobs they could find. Florence



sewed clothes for the girls and ordered her home and schedule as precisely as eight children would allow.

Reub served for many years as scoutmaster and as deacons quorum advisor as well as on the Stake Young Mens Boards. Florence was Secretary of the Relief Society for many years and also served on the Stake Young Womens Board. Reub also liked to take part in plays and was seen often in such entertainments.

Their children are: Carl, who has had a very successful career with Bank of America and has two children; Bruce, who is head of the Agricultural Department of College of the Sequoias, and who has four children; Douglas, owner and operator of a cattle ranch in Montana and who has three children; Lucille, an R.N. and Head Surgical Nurse at Rideout Hospital and who has four children; Lois, a teacher for several years and who has three sons; Beatrice, a Junior High teacher in Sacramento; Lenard, a pharmacist and farmer who has six children; Reed, a PhD Chemist and Researcher at Los Alamos, who has six children.

Florence died 4 April 1974 in her home in Gridley. Reuben carries on, having his home near Lenard on the old family farm.

#### W.C. JENSEN

W. C. Jensen moved his family to Gridley in 1938 from Metropolis, Nevada. W.C. had been a school teacher in Metropolis since the fall of 1922. He had been serving as a counselor in the Bishopric there since the fall of 1919, and in 1924 was asked to fill the position of Bishop, which he held until he moved to Gridley in 1938.

In 1932 W.C. bought 10 acres of property on the Back Biggs Road in Gridley and the family spent the summers in Gridley and the winter back in Metropolis teaching school until the permanent move. W.C. always said his main reason for moving to Gridley was for his three daughters - Marvis, Donna and Betty. He was afraid if he stayed in Metropolis they would end up marrying cowboys and he wanted a better life for his girls than that. Jeri Ann was born the last year in Nevada, so she grew up in Gridley.

In 1938 when the family moved to Gridley, W.C. was called to be the Bishop of the Gridley Ward, a position he held during the construction of the new church on Spruce and was released to serve on the High Council after the dedication in 1951. So all in all W.C. Jensen served as Bishop for 22 years, a long

service in the church. At the present time he is serving as Stake Patriarch.

W.C. was a great supporter of community affairs. He has served on the hospital board since construction in 1950 to the present time - 1980. He was treasurer to the Rotary Club for several terms and has served on the water board of the West Gridley-Biggs Water District for many years.

#### JOHNSON FAMILY

My grandmother, Sarah Ann, daughter of Thomas Jefferson Caldwell and Mary Ann Peterson, was born April 27, 1866 at Fountain Green, Sanpete County, Utah.

At a young age she married Oscar Crandall, who was killed a few months later when dragged by a team of horses. At nineteen Sarah was a widow and expecting a child. The baby was Minnie who later married Sam Cherry.

Sarah married John Niels Johnson. They became the parents of Don Carlos, Ezra Lyman, and Ard Thomas. A daughter Aurelia married and was the mother of four daughters.

In 1907 the family came to Gridley. Minnie had married Sam Cherry, and they came with the family. As the train stopped in Roseville, rocks were thrown through the window at the Mormons, one hitting Minnie. Her child was born in a hotel in Gridley later that night, but it did not live.

My grandfather was not greatly impressed with California, and he returned to Idaho.

Sarah and her son-in-law, Sam, bought a ten acre parcel on the corner of the present Richins and West Liberty roads. Reportedly, they were the first to complete payments for their property. Sam drowned west of Gridley a year or two later. The property remained in the Johnson family until 1978.

In 1910 Don Carlos was killed while working on a hay rig. The family was hard working by nature and also by necessity. At age eleven, "Ez" worked with team and scraper on a railroad trestle south of town. Sarah served as mid-wife to many women of the community. She worked as a practical nurse to many. She was employed seasonally at the cannery for many years. She gained a reputation as a good cook. Her family have said that she could create a gourmet meal from a bare cupboard.

At seventy-two, Sarah was still milking her cow. One day, however, the animal kicked her, resulting in her having a broken hip. She recovered, and lived to age eighty-four.

Her creed was to help others. She set a worthy tradition for her posterity.

by Leah Squires



## **FRED N. JOHNS FAMILY**

Frederick N. Johns, second son of Elizabeth Ann Bishop Johns and William M. Johns was Born Nov. 10, 1886 at Pleasant View, Weber Co. Utah.

In 1904 the family moved to the Snake River Valley in Idaho, the older ones building homes at Sugar City and Salem.

Fred had a lovely tenor voice, sang in the ward choir and in single and double quartets. Olive Virgin was ward organist and accompanied him; that is where we first met, fell in love and were married in the Logan Temple March 6, 1913.

Olive Vivian Virgin was born 6 April 1891 at St. Charles, Bear Lake Co. Idaho the daughter of Cecily Hibbert and Nephi Charles Virgin.

They went to Idaho Falls to live in 1915 and then came to California in 1919. After going back and forth from Idaho to Calif. they came back to Gridley in 1925 and lived here most of the time since then.

Fred did most of the painting in the new church on Spruce st. He was very active in his church assignments serving as a Seventy, a teacher in the S.S., singing in the choir, as a Ward Financial Clerk, and they both served as integrators for new converts.

Olive served in the Relief Society as Secretary, organist, teacher and counselor; in the Sunday School as organist, teacher, and librarian. She also was a Stake Missionary and YMMIA President. She was a very dedicated and versatile church worker for many years.

Fred had a keen mind and a good memory, he memorized scriptures and poetry. Fred passed away the 18th of August in 1979. He was 92 years of age. Fred and Olive had their 66th wedding anniversary in March of 1979.

## **WILLIAM H. JOHNS FAMILY**

William H. Johns married Elizabeth Ann Bishop Johns, a widow, in 1883. William Henry, their first son, was born on June 10, 1885 at Pleasant View, Weber Co. Utah.

In 1910 he first came to Gridley where he met Carrie Farr daughter of William and Anna Farr who had come to Gridley years earlier. Will and Carrie were married in 1911 at Sacramento. Will went to work with his father-in-law leveling land in and around Gridley. They had five children: Ersal, Orland, Leland, LaDell and Wanda.

They came back to Gridley in 1925 after going to Idaho Falls and settled on the Serviss

farm, had a herd of cows and Will later went into buying and selling cattle. He finally went into the butchering business.

Will was a good hearted fellow, anyone with him at meal time was invited to eat with them, or any who came while they were eating were invited to join them. Carrie used to say she never knew how many to prepare a meal for, which made it hard for her. Will passed away the 20th of October 1962 at the age of 77.

Carrie was born in Lewisville, Idaho on June 5, 1890. She was a Relief Society Visiting Teacher for about 45 years. She passed away May 31st 1974.

## **MONT J. JUSTESON**

Now prominent cattleman and rice farmer, Mont J. Justeson, arrived in Gridley at the age of seven. His father, Joseph Alex Justeson, was a native of Springville, Utah, born 16 Sept. 1864. He (Joseph) had the misfortune of losing his father when a teenager and since a brother was already in Old Mexico, it was a natural move to join him. There he engaged in raising cattle and at the age of thirty married Mary Evelyn Jacobson, also a native of Utah. Before they left Mexico, six children were born to them, Alex, Sadie, Mont, Irven Cortex, Cowley and Reed (Pete).

When it was decided to return to the States in 1908, he sold his holdings to other Mormons who had settled there, accepted a down payment, moved to Gridley, purchased thirty acres from the Wickman Family on what is now Justeson Avenue and settled there. Later he purchased twenty acres to the north and fifty acres a little west and across the road.

Unfortunately, as a result of the Mexican revolution, he was unable to collect the balance due on his Mexican holdings. Worse, his wife, Mary Evelyn, died soon after the birth of their seventh child, Doyle, and left him with a family of motherless children.

He married second, Mary Cole, daughter of William Cole who had settled in Colony #4. Five children were born to them, Elba, Myrtle, Iva, Edith and Melvin.

Mont has seen much come and go in the past 72 years. He has seen the unimproved roadways leveled and smoothed with Fresno scraper and team. (There were no paved roads anywhere when he arrived.) Has himself hauled gravel from the Feather River for them with team and wagon. Saw the building of the highway (99) and worked on it, during the building, in various capacities and with team



and wagon. It was a marvelous improvement.

He recalls the Social Hall, the services and social activities that centered there. He watched the building of a canal system and the water go out west, making the planting of rice possible. Rice, as a crop, was introduced about 1912 and his father started planting rice in 1916. He has seen good times and bad but has prospered by dint of hard work and business acumen. He has been generous with his employees and supportive of the Church, its activities and building program.

#### **JOHN WILLIAM "BILL" KOFFORD, JR. FAMILY**

Bill Kofford was the third of ten children born to John William Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Kofford. His Uncle, Alexander Justeson took a job with the Utah Contruction Co. to help build the Western Pacific Railroad up the Feather River canyon. When Uncle Alex moved his horses from Utah to Oroville, Calif. he was the only person allowed in the railroad car with the horses. Bill wanted to come to Calif. too, but he didn't have the fare. He built a false bottom in the horse manger and hid himself there so the railroad police would not find him and throw him off.

He and his Uncle Alex and the horses arrived in Oroville on Jan. 10, 1906, Bill Kofford's sixteenth birthday. He went to work full time hauling dynamite and black powder from Oroville to the construction site up the Feather River Canyon. In some places the wagon road was hung out over the rock walls of the canyon.

Later on, the entire family moved to acreage they had bought near Berry Creek, north-east of Oroville. They talked some of moving to the Sacramento Valley, but a neighbor discouraged them, saying it would be suicide to move a big family down there into the mosquitoes and malaria. However, in 1910 the family moved to the "ModelFarm" west of Chico. There they took on the big task of handmilking and caring for 130 milk cows.

On October 15, 1912 the family moved to property they had purchased in the colony north-west of Gridley, at the north end of what is now Kofford Road. They operated a small dairy and fruit orchard.

Bill took his horses and Fresno scraper to work at helping to build the many new irrigation canals planned for the district. He soon had many friends and often talked of the good times and the dances he enjoyed at the Social Hall. One of the friends he met was a young girl from Utah, Hilda Olsen. They were married in Oroville, on Dec. 29, 1919.

She still lives in the home Bill built for them on his portion of the farm. A younger brother, S.Coy Kofford and his wife, Gladys Clawson Kofford also have a home on part of the old farm. A daughter of Bill and Hilda, Dorothy Kofford Christensen and her family recently moved from Los Angeles and built a home on part of the farm. Their daughter, Linda, lives in the little home that was built for her great grandparents after the old family home was destroyed by fire in the late 20's.

I, W. Kent Kofford, only son of Bill and Hilda, live with my wife Grace Olsen Kofford and our three sons, Dale, Barry and Greg at 1761 Hazel St., Gridley. A second daughter of Bill and Hilda, Modean Kofford Moore lives in Chico, Ca. Submitted by W.Kent Kofford

#### **SAMUEL G. LAKE FAMILY**

George Lake and wife Mary Edda Foster were advised by Brigham Young to go south to Arizona in 1872 to avoid persecution because he had three wives. Samuel was born in Arizona in 1876. The saints were being crowded farther south. Upon the advice of the prophet the Lake family moved into Mexico. They were among the first settlers in Colonia Dublan. All went well until the Mexican revolution in 1912.

Samuel had married Jeanie Pryde in 1898 and had eight children. They were among the "refugees" who came out of Mexico when Poncho Villa became too rash. They spent a year and a half in Utah. They soon saw it would be impossible to make a living for a growing family there. So again they packed the covered wagons and came to California. They reached the Gridley-Biggs area in the fall of 1913.

Samuel had brought his wagons and two good teams of horses so had no trouble finding work as a teamster. His horses were always his pride and joy, the finest in the county.

Three more children were born to them making eleven in all. The children attended school in Biggs. The Pryde boys were cousins. The Lake and Pryde children and the Chesley family were the only Mormons in this then anti-Mormon town.

Sam purchased a small farm from George and Mary Herron who had preceeded them to the Gridley area in 1908, bringing with them Janet M. Pryde who was Jeanies's mother. They had come to join the James Pryde family. Mary Herron and Jeanie Lake are sisters to James Pryde.

In 1922 Samuel moved his family to Yuba City. Work was more available for his family and we would be closer to church. He assumed



a great deal of the responsibility of the building of the first chapel in Yuba City. He was branch president nearly seven years. Sam and Jeanie were active and always were a good example to those about them. Sam was a "perpetual" missionary. He passed away at age 84. Jeanie was a month short of 87. They were truly a royal couple - worthy of imitation.

Their family consisted of: George, Robert, Janet, Esther, Vida, Della, Leo, Leona, Elmo, Lydia and Vera.

#### FRANK A. LITTLE FAMILY

Frank A. Little and his wife, Harriet Spendlove Little, with their children Ray A., Florence (Sheppard), Frank Delbert, Verna (James) and Louis J. came to Gridley in 1908 from Morgan, Utah. Walter G. was born the following year. The property they bought in 1908 is now owned and farmed by their youngest son Walter G. and his family.

Frank A. Little was active in the community, being a high school trustee for several years during the twenties and also a director of the California Cling Peach Assoc. His wife, Harriet, was Relief Society President for more than 20 years.

Walter G. Little was a high school trustee for nine years, replacing Ray E. Stewart when he retired. The old high school burned on July 4, 1942, just a few days after Walter began serving on the board. His father, Frank, had served on the board while this building was built, and Walter served on the board while the present high school was built.

Walter served as Pres. of the West Gridley Farm Bureau for several years. He was also a member of a three man County Tenant Purchase Committee during the 30's which made recommendations and approved loans to purchase farms for persons unable to find financing elsewhere. He served as a director and Pres. of the Butte Water District for 17 years. While in this position he signed a State agreement with the State of Calif. guaranteeing water rights to members of Butte Water District upon completion of Oroville Dam. He was also active in Little League Baseball during the 1950's and 60's.

Walter married Hazel Pitt in the Salt Lake Temple on April 2, 1934. Their children are: Loretta, Gary, Karen, Brent, Rita, and Craig. They have 21 grandchildren.

Walter has held the following positions in church: He was the first YMMIA Stake Supt. Elders President, Sunday School Supt., YMMIA Ward Supt., Chairman of Genealogy

Committee, High Councilor, Counselor in Bishopric, filled a mission with Hazel to South Carolina, Chairman of Ward Activity Comm., and teacher in ward Auxiliaries.

#### LITTLES FROM MAINE TO CALIFORNIA

Jesse Carter Little was born in Maine in 1815. He joined the church in 1839. When the Prophet Joseph Smith was murdered in Nauvoo, J.C. Little was Presiding Elder of the Saints in Petersborough, New Hampshire. He later went to meet with President Polk to seek aid to help move the Saints west. This resulted in formation of the Mormon Battalion. He helped train the men of the Battalion and traveled with them to Ft. Leavenworth. He then returned home to preside over the Eastern States Mission until Brigham Young sent for him to join the first pioneer company to leave Council Bluffs for the west.

Jesse C. Little was among the men of the advanced party of scouts that entered Salt Lake Valley on 21 July 1847. He returned to preside over the Eastern States Mission and moved to Utah in 1852. He served in the Presiding Bishopric for 18 years. He was a blacksmith, hotel keeper and rancher. He built the first fire engine in Salt Lake and was the first Fire Chief. He was Police Chief, U.S. Marshall and U.S. Assessor of Internal Revenues. He had three wives and 27 children.

George Leonard Little, Sr. the 12th child of J.C. Little was born 29 April 1858 in Provo, Utah. The family moved to Morgan Co., Utah where George met Clara Thurston. They were married 12 Aug. 1884. They had a small farm in Morgan where he was county road commissioner for a time and developed a rather primitive road grader which was a great asset in improving the roads and making them more passable in the rainy season.

George and Clara were the parents of 7 children: Maud, Grace, George L., Jr., Lois, Luella, Morgan and Anne. They moved to Gridley in 1920 and brought Grace's three children, Marjorie, Ethel and Philip Peterson. She had died previously. They brought their own two youngest children, Morgan and Anne. Their married son, George, Jr. and his wife came to Gridley also, as did their married daughter Lois and her husband, Will Short.

When George L. Little, Sr. and his family moved to Gridley some of his close relatives had already settled here. His brother, Jesse Fredrick Little was living on Little Ave. His half brother, Frank Alonzo Little and his half



sister, R. Vilate Little Francis had moved their families here in 1907 or 1908.

George Sr. bought a small farm on French Ave. The house is no longer standing but it was just a little north of where his grandson, Philip Peterson, now has his home. George L. Little Sr. died 26 April 1941 at the home of his youngest son, Morgan, at 925 Calif. St. Gridley. His wife Clara passed away on the 16th of Nov. 1954.

George L. Little Jr. and his wife the former Clara Elaine Short had a small farm on the corner of Little Ave. and Lewis Oak Rd. They had three daughters and two sons, all born to them while living in Gridley: Georgelaine, Lorraine, Frank, Dolores and Robert. George and Elaine moved to Sacramento where she taught school and George had a small grocery store. After retirement they spent several years as temple workers in the Oakland Temple. Elaine passed away 27 Feb. 1972 in Sacramento. George, who is past 91 years of age, is alert and in good health and living alone in Sacramento. Several of his children, grandchildren and also his sister, Lois live in Sacramento.

Morgan Thurston Little, the second son of George L. Little Sr. and his wife Clara Thurston, was born 22 Aug. 1903 in Littleton, Morgan Co., Utah. He came to Gridley with his parents in 1920 when he was sixteen, riding in a cattle car to care for the animals. Morgan met and married Marvilla Wilcox who was a friend and classmate of his nieces, Marjorie and Ethel Peterson. Morgan and Marvilla were the parents of two children, Fred and Barbara. Their son, Fred has three children, all of whom live in the area: Susan Little Thompson, P. Michael Little and Allen Little. Barbara married S. William Dukes of Gridley. Their three grown daughters, Shelley, Mickey and Leslie all live away from the Gridley area.

Morgan T. Little died 27 Sept 1975 in a Paradise hospital, at the age of 72. His widow, Marvilla, lives at the family home on Calif. St. and is currently the Relief Society President of the Gridley Ward.

#### LOSSER FAMILY

John Henry Losser was born Sept. 4, 1851, in Kanton, St. Galen, Switzerland. John George Losser, father of John Henry, cared for his two orphaned nieces, daughters of his brother. It was the wish of both brothers that their children be sent to America to the land of Zion. John Henry, his cousin Elizabeth and

her sister, set sail for America in 1861. They were accompanied by a family friend, a woman, who died at sea. The three children had good voices and sang for the pleasure of the other passengers, thereby earning a little money and some extra goodies to eat. They arrived in New York after six weeks on the water.

The three children crossed the plains in covered wagons, walking a great part of the way. When they reached Salt Lake Valley, the three were taken in by foster parents, the two girls with one family and John Henry with another.

John Henry ran away from his foster home and little is known of his life until about age 25, when he met and married Emma Keller in Flat Nose, Nevada, in 1876. Emma Keller was born in Ogden, Utah, June 28, 1861, the only child of John Keller and Susanna Halfter. From Flat Nose, Nev. John Henry and Emma moved to Leeds, Utah, and eventually settled in Panquitch, Utah, where they farmed. There were ten children of that marriage, three boys and seven girls. The last child, a daughter, died at birth.

The second son, George David Losser, grew up with and married Lillie Minerva Cameron in Panguitch, Utah in 1900.

The two Losser families moved to Sugar City, Idaho, where both John Henry and George David helped build the Sugar Factory. In 1905 they learned that settlers were wanted in the northern Sacramento Valley area of Calif. around Gridley. Money was pooled and John Henry was sent to investigate the area. His report was favorable for farming and in 1906 both families, along with other Latter Day Saint families, moved to Gridley. The two Losser families set up farming a short distance from each other on what is now Losser Ave.

In their later years John Henry and Emma moved to Roseville, Calif. to live with one of their daughters till Emma's death in 1933 and John Henry's in 1941. They are remembered best by one of their granddaughters as sitting on their porch on a summer evening singing the old hymns.

#### MC GIE FAMILY

A family of five, father, mother and three young adopted children got off the passenger train at Gridley in the spring of 1913.

They had come west from the small village of Easton, Kansas, twenty miles from Topeka. Like other Latter Day Saints at the time, they were in search of better living conditions within the bosom of the church.



The missionaries of the Eastern States Mission were encouraging church members in the small branches of eastern Kansas to go west, to build up the church and at the same time take advantage of prospects for more prosperous conditions.

One place strongly recommended by these missionaries was the branch of the church and the community of Gridley, Calif. Like many other members of the church, this family of five heeded the recommendations of the missionaries, sold out their property in Kansas, and came by passenger train to Gridley.

James E. McGie (1872-1942) and his wife, Rosa May (1872-1943) had been converted to the faith in Kansas. Their early experiences in the church in Gridley and in the community were similar to those of many others at that time.

Their three children, in 1913, were Joseph F., age five, and twins and Mae, age three.

The family's first stop was the Gridley Hotel, at the corner of Hazel and Virginia Streets. James McGie purchased 2.75 acres of land, lots 110 and 111, from Colonel H.C. Veatch, who had developed the Veatch Tract in the Parkside Addition on the south edge of town. The purchase price for the two lots was \$600, bare and unimproved ground. This property is now (May, 1980) owned by Joseph F. McGie. Brother Walter and his family now live in Concord, and Sister Mae is a widow residing alone in Eureka. The property is just south of Locust Street on South Vermont St., half a country block south of the city limits.

The father, James, took his entire family back to Salt Lake City where the family partook of the church sealing ceremonies at the temple. Returning to Gridley, the family lived in the Orange Hotel on Ohio Street until the father could erect a tent as a temporary home and fence off his property.

His proficiency as a grain separator operator and sack piler or stacker on the local ranches and in the grain warehouses kept him gainfully employed until he was too old to work - up to World War II days.

James and Rosa McGie were very active church members in World War I days - into the 1920's. They and the children attended church faithfully and he paid his tithing fully - from his basic wage of fifty cents an hour. James McGie was active in priesthood meetings. He enjoyed the theological discussions that ensued at these sessions.

## RICHARD MC DOWELL FAMILY

Richard W. McDowell (born Joseph Wayne Peterson) was born April 21, 1926 in Spokane, Washington. He served in the Navy during World War II, then attended BYU where he met Mabel Fife. They were married April 1, 1948 in the Salt Lake Temple. After graduation in 1950 he accepted a teaching position in the Gridley Union School District. He continued teaching there for the next 29 years.

Dick and Mabel were blessed with seven children. Lucy, Julie, Kristy, Philip, Jack, Robert and Matthew. Four of their children went on missions for the church. Philip to Australia, Kristy to Japan, Jack to Idaho and Robert to Ecuador.

They have 8 grandchildren, four boys and four girls. The members of the church in Gridley have greatly influenced the McDowell family. The children were given many opportunities to participate in plays, roadshows, choirs, and many other assignments.

Dick, after retiring from teaching, started up a small printing business in his home. He and his sons Jack and Bob are his business partners. They have been instrumental in printing this history of the Gridley Wards. Dick is the great grandson of Hyrum Dewsnap, a fact he didn't know until he moved to Gridley 30 years ago. He has had many opportunities to serve the Lord in the Gridley Wards. He was in the Elders Quorum Presidency, ward clerk, seventys group leader, chief librarian of the Genealogy Library, Bishop of the Gridley Second Ward, and is currently serving his second term on the Gridley Stake High Council. He is also working as an extraction trainer and checker.

Mabel the daughter of Randolph and Mabel Fife teaches school in Biggs at the present time. She is the Project Coordinator for the school district. She taught for a time in Bangor and since 1960 has worked in Biggs schools.

She has taught classes in Primary, MIA, S.S., was MIA President twice and S.S. and MIA Chorister for many years. She also was a Den Mother, Seminary Teacher, Jr. S.S. Coordinator, meetinghouse librarian and is currently Stake Director of Libraries.

They both have a strong testimony of the gospel and have enjoyed a very wonderful life in Gridley. They realized that Gridley was the right place to raise their family and they weren't wrong.



## **WILBUR F. MILLS FAMILY**

Wilbur and Beth came to Gridley in Feb. 1948 from San Bernadino, Calif. They wanted to be in a rural area to raise a family, both having been active in 4-H before their marriage, their desire was to raise beef cattle. They bought a 70 acre dairy in 1948 and set out to achieve their goal. They dairied and had a small beef herd. With the economy the way it was, Wilbur had to seek "between milking" employment, and went to work as a fieldman in the A.S.C.S office in Oroville.

He became acquainted with members of the church, Beth already a member, and was taught the gospel by Robert and Marvis Fife and Betty Barrow. He was baptised, along with his oldest son Gary, by Robert Fife. He was offered work with "Fife and Stoddard", until 1951. Then Calvin Fife, Clifford Coffman and Wilbur formed a small building business. Calvin served a mission, Clifford retired to farming so Wilbur formed his own construction co.

During the 28 years, he built many projects, both large and small, as far south as Fresno, east to the mountains, west to Ukiah, and north to Oregon. He built schools, banks, stores, shopping centers, remodeling saw-mills, prune and walnut dehydrators, fish hatchery, numerous homes and etc. At times 125 people were employed, and this generated monies into Gridley. Many of the young men of Gridley give Wilbur thanks for the employment he gave them during their high school and college summer time.

In 1968, Wilbur started fulfilling his life long dream of raising registered Hereford cattle. The first calves were purchased by their son, Steven, and from that beginning 12 years ago, the herd has grown to approximately 1000 head. Early in 1980, Wilbur and Beth decided to stop the construction business and spend the remainder of their productive lifetime in the cattle business.

Wilbur and Beth raised three children - Gary, Christine, and Steven. He served in various positions in the church, Scoutmaster, Stake MIA Superintendent and Counselor in the Stake Presidency, in ward S.S. and with the Aaronic Priesthood. He also served on many committees in the community. He served as a trustee for the Gridley Elementary School for many years.

## **JOHN AND LILLIAN NIELSON**

Lillian Farr and her sister Carrie were the first LDS girls to attend Gridley High School. Lillian lived a colorful life. She loved music

and played for dances in the area. She acted in the Gridley Opera House and played background music for the silent movies at the Fink theater.

She met John T. Nielson, a returned missionary, and they were married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1914. Lillian and John had two children, Jack and Melba. One of her great loves was children, and she produced some beautiful operettas with the primary children. She designed and with the help of the ward made the winning float for the first Butte County Fair held in Gridley.

Christmas was not complete without seeing Nielson's beautifully decorated home. Early in December, the furniture was cleared from the two front rooms and the building began. Each year a different scene. There were life sized dimensional nativity scenes- santa, complete with sleigh and reindeer - snow scenes and etc. John always made some moving parts for the scenes.

John had a lot to do with the building of the church on Spruce St. He gave many hours to this project, namely in the sheet metal work. John served in the Stake Presidency with John Todd

## **ORME FAMILY**

The Milo S. Orme family moved to California in October 1929, coming from Drummond Idaho. They settled in Live Oak, later moving to Biggs, where they have resided from 1938 to the present day 1980. The family members were Milo and Mary Orme, and children Louise who was 13, Merrill 9 and John Kay 5 year old. During the children's growing up years, Milo engaged in farming - raising sheep and cattle. The children received their schooling at the Live Oak and Biggs Schools. Louise married and moved to the San Francisco Bay area. Kay married and settled in Biggs.

Merrill graduated from Live Oak High School and attended Yuba College for one semester. Then he and his dad formed a partnership and went into dairy farming. During the years 1939 to 1942, Merrill became more active in church meetings and activities. And it was also during this time that Ashel Hyde moved to Gridley and was Ward Athletic Director and Coach. Merrill and Ashel became very close friends. It was Ashel and Bishop W.C. Jensen who encouraged Merrill to consider and prepare for a Church Mission. In April 1941, Merrill received a call to the Canadian Mission where he served until Feb. 1943.



In May 1943, Merrill returned to Windsor, Canada where he married Jean Morrison. They were later sealed in the Salt Lake Temple in 1945. To this union were born Keith Merrill in 1947 - Cathie Elizabeth in 1950 - Mark Robert in 1955. During the years, Merrill has made a living for his family in farming and construction work, building homes, schools, and commercial buildings. Since 1959, he has been employed by Biggs West Gridley Water District as superintendent of operations and manager. He has served on the Buttes Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, - Biggs Gridley Memorial Hospital finance service committee and eight years as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Biggs Unified School District.

When the Gridley Stake Building was under construction, Merrill was assistant superintendent. Over the years, he has served in numerous capacities in his church service - Stake High Council, Counselor in two Bishoprics, Counselor in Stake Sunday School Presidency, Ward Mutual Superintendent, Ward Sunday School President, several teaching positions, and Priests Quorum Advisor, Regional Athletic Director and Stake Athletic Director.

Merrill and Jean's family, also, has been active in their school, church and community. All three children graduated from Biggs Schools. Keith and Cathie graduated with their degrees from BYU. Mark attended Ricks and BYU. They are striving to be active in their community affairs and each has held numerous positions in the ward and stake. Both sons have served church missions, Keith in Chile and Mark in Mexico. All three children have been married in the Temple. Keith to Genet Nielsen in Los Angeles Temple, 1970, Cathie to John Walton in the Oakland Temple, 1971; and Mark to Susan McLean in the Oakland Temple, 1980. Merrill and Jean have six grandchildren at the present time.

They are grateful for their many blessings - among them the good life, they feel they have enjoyed in the community of Gridley, and with their membership in Gridley Ward. They are thankful for their associations with the finest of friends over the years, both members and non members of the church - and they are most grateful for the good and positive influence that these associations have had on their family.

## VERN AND MARION PASSMORE

Vern Passmore parents moved to the Gridley area in 1909. They settled in Watts Colony on Highway 70 between Oroville and Gridley. He grew up in the original home his father built. He attended Lone Tree grade school and Oroville High School. On December 25th 1938 he married Marion Campbell. They are parents of three children: Vernene Joyce, Stephen Roger and Lawna Cheryl.

Vern along with his brother owned and operated a fleet of Grade A milk trucks. He was baptized into the church in 1951. He has served faithfully in the church since his baptism. He served in the bishopric and for many years has taught the Gospel Doctrine Class in Sunday School in the Second Ward.

Marion was born and raised in Gridley. She has always been an active member of the church and enjoys working with the young people in the ward. She has held many important position in the primary and mutual. A very talented individual. She is a happy housewife, mother and grandmother.

## PITT FAMILY

James M. Pitt and his wife Estella with their children, Don, Hazel, Lyall, David, Francis, Lola Mae, Daly and Colleen came to Gridley in 1928 from Upalco, Utah. Leon and Alvin were born while the family lived in Gridley. The depression hit the country so the family (except Hazel) moved back to Utah in 1931. Hazel married Walter G. Little in 1934 and has made Gridley her home. David returned to Gridley in 1938 where he married Katherine Mitchell of Provo, Utah in 1940 and lived here until his death in 1966. Katherine and David had 2 sons, Jim and Kim. Katherine is still teaching school in Manzanita.

Hazel was a member of the Junior Women's Club when it was first organized. She has served in High School PTA and two years as Elementary PTA Pres. She was a leader in the West Liberty 4-H for several years. She worked on the election board (County) for 40 years. Also the School Election Board for many years. She had had many callings in the church working with all age groups. She and her husband, Walter, just completed a full time mission to South Carolina.



## BARBARA PRICE

I was born in Mikado, Saskatchewan. I am one of the twelve children born to Peter and Nellie Zbitnoff. I had eight brothers and three sisters. My parents raised eight of us. Most of us were born in Canada except three brothers born in Yuba City.

My father was a farmer in Canada. He always wanted to come to California. In Dec. of 1922 he came to Yuba City and in March of 1923 he sent for us. We lived in Yuba City most of the time.

When I quit school I went to work for Libbys at Locke where I met my husband. We were married in 1930 and after four years we had our first baby girl. When she was 9 months old we moved to Gridley. Our second daughter was born in Gridley. I worked for Libbys while Archie started farming. In 1965 I retired from Libbys and Archie retired from farming. We made two trips to Canada, one to where I was born and to British Columbia.

We have seven grandchildren. Archie died in 1969.

I joined the church when Janice was eight years old and we went to the Temple when she got married. I have a very strong testimony and am so thankful for the church. It has been a comfort to me since Archie died. I am thankful for my job in the Temple. And I am thankful for the community I live in and my friends here.

## WILLIAM PRICE

William Price was the son of Mormon Pioneers. His father, Samuel Maxwell Price, crossed the plains with the Saints in 1850. His mother, Mary Louisa Whitmore came to Utah with a group of converts from Texas in 1857. He was their third son, born 1 Feb. 1867 in Wellsville, Cache Co., Utah.

In 1884 he made a dangerous trip to the Territory of Arizona, one of the last frontiers. In Pima, Arizona, he met and married Amanda Catherine Hendricks. (Born 14 Jan. 1872 in Clifty, Todd Co., Ky.) To them were born seven children, William Franklin, Katie, Mary Susan (Mamie), Artemesia (Artie), James Archibald (Archie), Phoebe Ann and Mildred.

In 1900 he and Amanda were able to make the trip to Logan to be sealed in the temple and visit his father. By 1904 his father, now advanced in years persuaded them to return to Wellsville and farm his sixty acres, where they remained for four years.

At the death of his father in 1908, he chose to sell his share of the estate to his brother and came to Gridley to investigate the possibility of moving to Calif.

An organization of the church here was a deciding factor in the family's decision. They arrived in Gridley in March of 1908. Their first home here was several miles southwest of town on the West Liberty road. Later he purchased five acres and built the family home on Richins Avenue where they lived for many years.

In addition to farming he hauled produce to the mountain communities with team and wagon. He was one of the last to give up horses for farming and hauling. Like many of his generation, he never really became proficient at driving an automobile. He died 10 March 1951. His wife, Amanda, survived him and lived to the age of 98. She died 12 April 1970.

## JAMES M. PRYDE

For 13 years, James M. Pryde was President of the Gridley Branch of the Church . (1920-1933). Prior to this time he served as Superintendent of the Sunday School and later as one of the first high councilors in the Gridley Stake. He was always active in the church.

He was born in Donebristle, Fife, Scotland, 20 Dec. 1870. He, his parents and two sisters joined the church there and emigrated to this country, settling in Arizona.

When the railroad was being built into Mexico, he went to work for them building houses (adobe) at water stations and in various other capacities. It was in Old Mexico that he married, first, Janet Beveridge who died in childbirth when his daughter, Agnes, was born. Second, he married Aminta Sneddon. She also died in childbirth when his first son, John, was born. His third wife, Effie Lorian Foutz, was born in Tuba City, Ariz. and is the mother of the rest of his children, James Morgan, Leslie, Evan, Melvin, William (who died young), Ivans, Orwin and Anthon. They were sealed by Anthony W. Ivans in 1901 at Colonea, Juarez, Old Mexico where they lived.

With the Mexican uprising, they were forced to leave the country and arrived in Gridley in December of 1907. The first five weeks, they occupied a house where the Spruce St. Church now stands. They settled in the Biggs Township on what is now Pryde Ave. where he operated a dairy for many years.



Under his leadership as branch president, the chapel was extensively remodeled to make it more practical and useable. As a high councilor in the Gridley Stake, he traveled extensively throughout the large area included within the Stake boundaries.

His wife, Effie, helped and supported him in his church callings. She was a nurse and since there was no hospital in Gridley, their home was often used for maternity care.

He died 11 oct. 1949 and she 31 March 1953. Both are buried in the Gridley Biggs Cemetery.

## THE GODDARD QUIST FAMILY

Goddard Quist and his family moved to Gridley on June 4, 1937 from Metropolis, Nevada. He was a painter by trade. He had worked in nearby Wells, Nevada and vicinity for the previous 16 years. He was born Feb. 22 1882 in Gotenberg, Sweden. He immigrated to Utah in 1905 where he met and married Ebba Ek. They had the following children; Carl Lowell, Salt Lake City, Paul G., Gridley; R. Wilford, Gridley, plasterer; J. Philip, Biggs, Custodian Supervisor; Grant W., Gridley, Electrician; Norman N., Sacramento, Produce.

Paul came to Gridley in 1934 and worked for Bishop Randolph Fife plastering. Wilford followed in 1936, and worked for Paul and Theo Gattiker who were plastering together at this time. The rest of the family came in June 1937.

All the boys attended school in Metropolis, Nevada. They rode to school 5 miles, in a covered wagon, and in the winter a covered bob sled pulled by horses. This contained a small stove. Much time was spent telling stories and playing Rook. This was Wilford's favorite.

In later years Grant and Norman skied to school 4 miles each way every day. Wilford used to trap coyotes, badgers, etc. and one day he caught a skunk and ruined a wool overcoat. He thought that he was safe because he ran to the front of the skunk.

Lowell stayed in Salt Lake and married Geneve Gold. They have 5 children. Paul married Carol Hyde from Metropolis. Wilford married Margory Smith from Gridley, Phil married Yvonne Cameron from Gridley, Grant married Gloria Nutt from Chicago and Norman married Dolores Little from Gridley.

Paul and Grant were on the building committee for the LDS church. Paul was in charge of plastering and Grant was in charge of the electrical wiring.

Ebba Quist operated a grocery store (Quist Bros.) from 1939 to 1947 and then moved across the street to the new building Goddard built. This was later managed by Norman and later sold out. It is now Funks Market.

Lowell, Phil, Grant and Norman served in World War II. Grant was in England, a mechanic in the 8th Armored Division in Patton's 3rd Army.

Some of the positions held by these brothers were: Paul, Elders Quorum President and teacher; Wilford, high councilor, bishop, and teacher; Phil, Aaronic Priesthood leader, bishop's counselor, high councilor; Grant, Stake Missionary, Elders Quorum Pres. and teacher of Gospel Doctrine.

Goddard helped paint the church in Gridley. He also painted stage scenery. He had a hobby of painting pictures of landscapes. He also went down the Colorado River in a row boat with two other men in 1915 taking movies. They went from Green River, Utah to Lees Ferry, Colorado. They were possibly the 1st to navigate the river since the Major Powell Expedition.

An interesting episode happened when Goddard arrived at the front door of the church one Sunday morning. On attempting to enter the front door found it was being held by a deacon from the inside because the opening prayer was in progress. Goddard misunderstood and thought that someone was just holding the door as a prank. He gritted his teeth, braced both feet and pulled the door open violently. The poor little deacon was thrown about 20 feet running on his tip toes amid Swedish swear words which could be heard all over the church.

Another episode happened to Phil, Grant and Norman who were batching it on their ranch in Nevada in the spring of 1937. It was Grant's birthday, so Phil cooked a birthday cake but it fell in the middle. He remedied it by leveling it off with frosting about 1 inch thick. This was the best cake they ever ate.

## ARTHUR MELVIN RICHINS

Melvin (as he was known) was born at Henefer, Utah on the 21st of Jan. 1881. He was the second child and the first son of Arthur Richins and Lucy Booth Richins. There were six more children to follow making a family of eight children. His parents came from England and crossed the plains with the pioneers. He attended school in Henefer and grew up there. He enjoyed sports and was good at broad jumping. They enjoyed a lot of



snow, with ice skating and skiing in the winter. He had asthma most of his life and it kept him from working in the summertime on his father's farm in the hay because of the dust, so during the summertime he would get a job in the hills herding sheep. He was good at fishing and kept them in fish.

He married Florence Shill of Henefer and had two sons, Raymond and Milton. Shortly after the birth of Milton she died from pneumonia. Milton was six months old at the time. His older sister Zina took the boys for him.

Three years later Melvin came to Gridley with his father and ten other men looking for land in a better climate than that of Henefer. When they arrived they stayed at the Hotel, then owned by Hyrum Dewsnup. That night 16 Dec. 1908, Laura waited on their table and when Melvin saw her he told his father that was the girl he was going to marry.

Melvin bought land in Biggs and batched with another man from Canada and worked his land for about a year. During this year he also courted Laura Dewsnup and they were married in the Logan Temple 16 April 1909. To this union was born eight more sons and one daughter. After the birth of their first son, they brought Raymond to California to be with them but as Zina had no children of her own they let her keep the baby, Milton.

Melvin was a faithful member of the church and always paid a full tithe. He soon sold his land in Biggs and bought the home place on Richins Ave. He was a loving husband and father and provided well for his family. Due to his poor health he passed away 20 April 1928, just six days before his last child was born.

From this good man there were eleven children, fifty one grandchildren, one hundred thirty four great grandchildren and eleven great great grandchildren as of today with many expecting at this time. Today we have two hundred seven descendents with sixty mates making a total of two hundred sixty eight Richins family descendants from this one man.

### **CHARLES SANNAR FAMILY**

In the summer of 1908 Charles Cyrus Sannar with his wife Bessie, a son Harry and daughter Grace arrived in Biggs, Calif. Through the LDS Church they heard the climate was milder and land was plentiful. Charles and his family had previously lived in Eastern Oregon where their families had immigrated to from West Virginia. It was here in Biggs in Jan. 1910

their third child, Rosy, was born. The latter part of that same year the home in Biggs was sold to Sylvester and Terencha Coe who were Bessie's parents. They had also come from Oregon to settle in Calif.

Charles Sannar had accepted the gospel and was baptized the 8th of October in 1908 in the Feather River. Bessie and her mother Terencha Coe had joined the church while living in Elgin, Oregon prior to her marriage to Charles Sannar the 21st of Sept. 1905.

In the Liberty Branch Charles Sannar served as Sunday School Superintendent for several years. Also serving as branch clerk and MIA president. He was first counselor to Ray Stewart as Branch Pres. in Liberty Branch. Also served as a home missionary to visit branches of the church in Northern California.

Bessie Sannar served many years as Relief Society President also work director and teacher in the Liberty Branch. She spent many hours caring for the sick in our area even though she had a large family of her own to care for.

In the summer of 1910 Charles bought a piece of land and built a house in the Gridley Colony which was our permanent home. Here in Gridley Colony several more children were born namely: Lena and Letha (twins) who lived only a short time, Boyd, Floyd, Howard, Orval, Roy, Ruth, and Ray Sannar.

### **HOWARD SANNAR**

Howard was born in Gridley to Charles C. and Bessie Sannar. He grew up on a small ranch west of town known as West Liberty. He attended all twelve years of school in the Gridley schools. He was active in all school sports as well as in church and its activities. He was taught to work on the ranch and was talented in mechanics so he spent lots of time tearing down cars and fixing them.

In May of 1938 he married his school-days sweetheart, Maurine Barrow, and to them were born; Ronald, Jerry, and Judy. Howard was employed by Tucker Chevrolet at the time of his marriage. He later left Gridley to work as a Parts Manager in Dunsmuir and then in Placerville. After the outbreak of World War II he decided to go back to the farm in Gridley.

In 1944 he went into partnership with Omer Barrow and Earl Barrow to form Sannar and Barrow Brothers. They acquired farm lands in the area and also purchased Ford Tractor Co. in Gridley.

In 1951 he was called to be the Bishop of the Gridley Ward. The ward was divided while he



was serving as Bishop and he became the first Bishop of the Gridley Second Ward. He was later to serve on the Gridley Stake High Council where he served many years. He has taught classes in Sunday School and presently is the High Priest Group instructor, a home teacher, and a choir member.

His two sons are now farming with him and the Barrow Brothers and have expanded the farming operation. His older son, Ronald, is now his Bishop.

## **SANNAR AND BARROW**

Sannar and Barrow commenced their farming operations during the Second World War years. At a time when Omer Barrow was home on a furlough from the Pacific theatre, and Earl Barrow was on a leave from the Navy, they spent many hours discussing their future with Howard Sannar, who was married to their sister, Maurine Barrow. Howard was working in Gridley for Barrow Bros., his father-in-law and uncle.

They leased a 40 acre piece of land and a 100 acre piece of land and started their farming partnership known as Sannar and Barrow Bros. At that time also, they made application to Washington D.C. for an International TD9 tractor and purchased a model H rubber tired row crop tractor and other miscellaneous equipment. Some equipment was traded with Barrow Bros. partnership to help keep expenses down and make the venture feasible. The first crop was planted with Howard and Maurine doing the work as Omer and Earl were still in the service. Omer was home in time to harvest that crop. Earl returned for the following years work. Their desire was to own land and as soon as rent would maintain land payments, good land for the right price was looked for and acquired as it became available.

To be able to buy at the right price for their farming operation other businesses were invested in, such as gas and oil, tractor, automobile and iron manufacturing. One of their most recent ventures is marketing. The second generation is now involved in the operation.

Howard and Maurine had three children, Ronald, Jerry and Judy. Howard and Maurine have been active in church responsibilities, with Howard serving as Bishop.

Omer married Betty Jensen and they have 5 children - Brad, Tawnia, Valerie, Lynette and Mathew. Omer served on the High Council and other callings and Betty served in various calls, the present time as Stake Relief Society President.

Earl married Betty Blue, and they have 2 children - Steve and Roxanne. Earl has served recently in the Sunday School Presidency.

## **SHEPPARD FAMILY**

A long time resident of the Gridley area, Theo Crum Sheppard, arrived in Gridley May 15th 1906 from South Jordan, Utah where he was born June 3, 1889. He was the son of Charles Franklin Sheppard and Miriam Hibbard.

An older brother, Clyde, had come to Gridley a year earlier, in 1905 and purchased property in Colony 3 between Gridley and Biggs as a result of the advertising campaign carried on by the California Irrigated Land Company.

With urging from Clyde and a desire for a change, Charles Sheppard and his remaining family, wife, Miriam, sons, Crum and Os and daughter, Vida, prepared for the move. On the eve of their departure, the San Francisco earthquake occurred and the trip was temporarily canceled. Well meaning friends tried to discourage the move but after waiting about three weeks, the move was made.

Crum came with his father, seven head of horses and furniture in the freight car as far as Lincoln, Calif. From there as a passenger. The rest of the family arrived by passenger train and the family settled on the east side of what is now Highway 99, a little south of Gridley.

When he arrived, Gridley was only a small railroad town surrounded by cattle ranches and grain fields. Only a few families had built homes and settled in the colonies east of the highway. What is now Colony 4 was a large field owned by Service. The Richards addition to the city, where he now lives on Hazel Street, was also just a field and had not yet been subdivided.

He worked on the canals before water was turned into them. He used his team to work on the East Gridley and Colusa Roads and on the Western Pacific railroad being built thru the Feather River Canyon. On the railroad project, Saturday nights a long wagon was used to take the men into town (Portola) for the evening. Because Crum was not a "drinking man" he was hired to do the driving for which he received an extra day's pay. With other Mormon boys, he worked for Joe Cameron when the Ord Ranch was leveled.

He courted and married Clarissa Smith, daughter of Samuel and Helen Smith who had come to Gridley from Georgetown, Idaho in December of 1907. To them were born eleven



children: Theo, Earl, May, Ruby, Ray, Margie, Dottie, Jack, Ruth, Denise and Jamie of which only five are still living.

They made their home on Block Road in Colony 9 and engaged in raising cattle and horses. In addition, they also cared for the West Butte Gun Club for some years.

They attended church in the Gridley Opera House and the Social Hall. He has now retired and moved to town.

### THE OTHER T. SHIRLEY FAMILY

The Other T. Shirley family was converted to the Church in Hart County, Georgia just before the turn of the century. Due to prejudice against the church and persecution of its members at that time in the south, the Church felt it advisable for the members to leave there. An excursion was promoted for a group to go to Canada where land was available free or at very little cost. This was in March of 1902.

The train the group was on, having run short of supplies, stopped at Rexburg, Idaho. While talking to a clerk, my father mentioned the name of Adrian Wilcox who was the Elder who had converted them. Adrian and his family lived in Rexburg and he happened to be in the store at the time and overheard Dad mention his son's name. He made himself known and insisted that the family leave the group and stay in Rexburg. Bro. Wilcox provided the family with a house to live in.

The family, at the time they arrived in Idaho, consisted of Dad and Mother and four children, James Peyton, a son, and three daughters, Adrian, Lottie, and Vera. Mother's mother Amanda Fore and her maiden sister Rosanna Branham were also with them. I, William B., known by the name of "Ben" was born Sept. 4, 1903 in Rexburg.

Upon learning of a land development project in Gridley, Calif. in the spring of 1906, he left the family in Rexburg to go there. He liked what he saw and made a down payment on ten acres about one and a half miles southwest of Gridley in Colony #4. The family was sent for and arrived in Gridley along with a number of other families in Feb. of 1907. We lived in a house in Gridley for a short time and then moved into tents under some oak trees on property Dad had purchased.

There were four more children born to the Shirley family on the little farm southwest of Gridley. Other Theron was born in Apr. 1907 while we were still living in tents. Lillis, Mavis and Claire were also born on this farm.

There are three of us still living in Gridley. My sister, Lillis Jones is living on Locust Street. My sister, Adrian and my wife and I are living at 170 East Spruce St. My younger brother, O.T. is living in Walnut Creek, Calif. The other four, Peyton, Lottie, Vera and Mavis have died.

### DAVID LORENZO SMITH

David Smith was born 3 Aug. 1872 in Brigham City, Utah. The son of Samuel Lorenzo Smith and Eunice Elvira Tippetts. His father died when he was 8 years old, the oldest and only boy in a family of four, so at this early age it became his responsibility to be the man of the family. They had a small farm, he worked helping neighbors hay and worked for a canal company. His grandfather owned a grist mill where he also worked.

When he was 18 the family moved to Bear Lake Valley, Idaho, and they filed on a homestead. They lived there till his sisters were married. It was then his ambition to fulfill a mission for the church. He saved his money and Oct. 4, 1904 received a mission call to the Southern States Mission. He was now 32 years old. He labored in the state of Mississippi. He traveled like the early missionaries of the church, without purse or script and he had many marvelous experiences. He returned home in Feb. of 1907 and that same year he and his mother moved to Gridley. He purchased forty acres west of town.

On the 7th of Oct. 1909 he was married to Pearl Elydia Jensen in the Salt Lake Temple. They met when he was serving in the Sunday School Superintendancy and she was the Secretary. To that marriage 8 children were born, two dying in infancy. The living are Elmer, Amy, David, Eunice, Marjorie and Vernon. When Vernon was 17 days old, his mother died, 31 Mar. 1924 leaving six small children. David L's aged mother cared for the children for three years and then she died. From that time on he was both mother and father to his children, at no time would he allow them to be separated as a family.

He was always active in the church and spent 7 years as a Stake Missionary. He was fatally injured in a fall from his barn and died 2 March 1954 at the age of 81.



## DIMON STEWART FAMILY

Dimon was born in Fairview, Idaho in 1901. In Jan. 1913 his father, Ray Stewart, took a train to Gridley. He wrote back to the family to tell them he had purchased 10 acres of land from Grover Cameron (who was selling to finance a mission).

Ray went back to Fairview, sold out, and moved to Gridley. They built a home on French Ave. spending many pleasant hours swimming in the canal, going to church in Liberty Branch and enjoying the weather.

John Todd's family bought a home close to Dimon's in 1914, and Dimon says he and John became close friends and John was a good influence on his life.

One Sunday morning it looked like rain, the hay was mostly cured in the field, so Ray said to the boys, "let's get the hay in before it rains". They hauled two loads before it rained. The hay in the barn was not cured, and almost burned the barn. The hay in the field dried after the rain and they saved it. The family used this experience many times to remind them to keep the Sabbath day holy.

Dimon grew up in Liberty Colony. He married Fredonia Cluff and bought property across from his father. They had nine children. Dimon served in the Stake Presidency with John Todd for 17 years. Dimon and Fredonia are now serving a mission in Indiana, Columbus Ohio Mission.

## THE SWAN [SVAHN] FAMILY

Magnus Nilson Swan and his wife, Anna Sophia Pilblad were both born in Sweden. Swan was a soldier's name given his grandfather when he was in the army. Magnus' father, Peter Nilson Svahn, died when he (Magnus) was nine years old so times were hard for the family.

Most or all his family joined the church but Anna Sophia was disowned by her family when she joined so she went to Denmark.

He went to Denmark to avoid military service. It was there he met his wife and their children, Axel Torvald Junius and Charles Erastus, were born. They lived in Denmark for nine years before coming to Utah in 1882.

They settled in Richmond, Cache Co. After several moves, including a ten year stay in New Mexico where Axel died, they arrived in Idaho. Charlie attended Ricks Academy there and it was in Rexburg that he became acquainted with Effie Augusta Pearson who

became his wife. They made the trip to Salt Lake and were married in the temple in 1904. Five children were born to them, Willis Aaron, Etta Geneva, Hannah Ora, Ilo Joshua and Verna May.

They lived in Kimberly Idaho for a time. He worked on the railroad and she cooked for the section crew. In 1909, the family left for Gridley in a covered wagon towing a one horse buggy but at Rypatch, Nevada, Effie and the two children, Willis and Etta, took the train for the remainder of the trip. His parents, Magnus and Anna Sophia already had a home in Colony #4 on Dewsnap Avenue and she and the children stayed with them until Charlie arrived some time later with the team, wagon and buggy.

They purchased ten acres north of the elder Swans and built a home there. He was a carpenter, mechanic and farmer, contracted plowing and rice harvesting. The children attended West Liberty School and the family attended church at the Social Hall. Charlie often led the singing. He was a member of the band and played the baritone horn. Later they moved into town and were active members of the Gridley Ward.

## EDMUND Z. TAYLOR FAMILY

In December 1923, Norma Farr Taylor, wife of Edmund Z. Taylor, left their home in Rigby, Idaho, with her three children to spend a winter vacation in Gridley. They stayed with Norma's sister, Lillian and Jack Nielson. Kenneth was twelve, Mary five and Marjorie two months. E.Z. became so homesick for Norma and the children that he soon joined them. They fell in love with Calif. and decided to move from Idaho, and make Gridley their home. they rented for a couple of years and then built their home on Sycamore Street.

Shortly after coming to Gridley, E.Z. was selected as second counselor to Pres. Pryde in the Branch Presidency. He later became Supt. of the District S.S. Board and traveled visiting all S.S. in the area. He served in the Gridley S.S. and later as a high counselor.

Norma served in Primary, MIA and Relief Society. She will long be remembered for her talent in decorating for Gold and Green Balls, weddings etc. Their home was always open to the missionaries and many boys have enjoyed the hospitality and good food of the Taylor home.



In 1942 the Taylor's moved to Vallejo. Here he served in many church positions, one time as Bishop of the ward. Norma served as Pres. of the R.S. and still used her talents in decorating for affairs.

While growing up in Gridley, Kenneth, Mary and Marjorie took an active part in church. Kenneth married Martha Green, had a career with J.C. Penney Co., and at retirement moved to Mesa, Ariz. Mary has fond memories of playing each Sunday morning for Sunday School, she at the old pump organ and Bob Fife at the piano. Many a part she had in the plays Dorothy Fife directed. Mary married Fleming Pope of Sacramento and they have lived most of their married life in Piedmont, CA. Marjorie was busy with church, music, and school. She married Fred Pack of Logan, Utah. They live in Montana in summer and Palm Springs in the winter.

#### **HENRY M. & ELLA O. TODD**

The Henry Matthew Todd and Ella Orania Carter family originated 6 Mar. 1889 in the Manti Temple. They settled in Pleasant Grove, Utah. In 1890 they set out by wagon to homestead with Henry's parents on Darby Creek near Victor, Idaho. Besides being a farmer, raising purebred Purcheon horses, an engineer (he built the Todd Canal which is still in use today) he also was the nearest thing around for a doctor. He also began a guide service thru Yellowstone Nat'l Park in covered wagons. On one trip he took the First Presidency, Joseph Fielding Smith, the apostles and wives. Thirteen years of hardships and heavy winters took their toll and the family moved to Parker, staying awhile in Chester where their son John Carter Todd was born.

Henry's health was failing resulting in 11 operations, at least one of which he refused amputation and without anesthetics assisted the doctor in scraping the bone of his leg. He was never free from pain but still found ways to laugh and play with his children and tease his beloved Ranie. This 6'2" strong, black-haired man who could leap a 6' fence, who was once a spar partner for the Idaho Champion boxer, had become a thin, white-haired skeleton of his former self. He sent for his son Boyd and upon him laid the responsibility of the family. A last effort to save the father took the family to Los Angeles in 1912.

In 1913 desiring to leave his family with the successful settlement of Saints in Gridley the family moved for the final time. They were not city-dwellers and were happy to be going to this fine farming community. They arrived by train in January 1914 in a heavy rain and moved into a two-room, leaky cabin - all 13 of them. The Hazelton home Boyd had rented was not ready. Art went to work at the Globe, Airel at the Variety store. Art played the snare drum in Boyd's band. The family purchased the one acre plot and home from Magnus P. Swan in Colony 4.

The kids were happy although school in Gridley was difficult - Mormons were not liked particularly by the teachers. As the late Herman Block put it "the only thing that saved the Mormons was the coming of the Okies, the natives had something else to pick on". The West Liberty School was a haven to the six Todd kids. Happiness was short for their Father died 5 Nov. 1914. Then in 1915 the home was ransacked and set on fire. A hard-working mother with six of her 12 children at home and no income - times were tough. The family never starved thanks to many good neighbors and the Church.

Time came for Boyd to leave home and it was John's turn to take over the responsibility for Mother and family. John was a hard worker and soon landed a job at Bank of America - on the ground floor to be exact. With all his many responsibilities he still took time to be the guiding light for the entire Todd family who turned to him for help and advice. Ranie lived to rear her family, see them all married and she counted each precious grandchild. As often as possible she would travel to their widespread homes, those not keeping the Lord's commandments were chastized, grandchildren were baptized, words of advice were given whether wanted or not and she stayed until each home was in order. She gathered her family together as often as possible.

She and Henry both loved to write poetry. Many of their grandchildren today treasure the poems written especially for them at graduation, wedding, etc. She lived the gospel, she studied the scriptures daily, she gave comfort to those in need, especially to her family. When Airel's husband Art died a few days after arriving in Calif. she welcomed the penniless Airel and Jean into her tiny home with a happy heart.

By their example Henry and Ranie left their descendants the greatest of all legacies, that of integrity, honesty, the art of being



industrious, faith and courage. Ranie was an active member and willing worker in the Gridley Ward. She served as a counselor in the Primary, as a Relief Society teacher, first and second counselor in the R.S. and in 1929 as Relief Society President. From the efforts of Henry and Ranie came Relief Society Presidents, Primary Presidents, Ward and Stake YWMIA Presidents and a Stake President.

John C. Todd  
Jean Carlson Jackson

### GEORGE W. TOLLEY

George W. Tolley was born in Nephi, Utah, June 27, 1883. He was the son of Samuel and Sarah Jane Picton Tolley. He lived there till seven years of age, then they moved to Mountain View, Alberta, Canada.

In June 1903, with 19 other Elders he set out for Great Britain to serve on a mission, he being assigned to Belfast, Ireland. While on his mission, he administered to a man named Alex McLean for his afflictions. He had been deaf for years and after the administration, his hearing was completely restored in 3 days. Although not a member at this time, he later joined the church.

He returned from his mission in Apr. 1905 to Mountain View and had just begun work on his farm, when he received a call to go to Orton and become the Bishop of the Ward, at the age of 22. While serving as Bishop he was sealed to Phyllis Sillito on June 25, 1906. Ten children were born to this union.

They moved to California in 1907 and Bishop Tolley immediately began construction on a large Social Hall, which was the largest church building in Norther Calif. at that time. Being a contractor and builder, he erected many buildings in the Gridley, Yuba City and Oroville areas, some of which were: The Gridley City Hall, Memorial Bldg., Mormon Church which was located on Vermont and Sycamore Streets, the Social Hall and many family residences.

He was president of the branch on Vermont St., with George M. Larson as 1st counselor and J.O. Wilcox as 2nd Counselor. Bishop Tolley remained active in church work until his death on October 21st 1933.

### WILCOX FAMILY

My parents, Samuel Franklin Wilcox and Luella Evans Van Dam, first met in 1907 when

their families moved to Vina, Tehema Co. Calif. as members of a co-operative farming venture. Papa was born in Cedar Fort, Utah 2 March 1874 and Mother 15 Dec. 1891 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The group bought a large acreage of freestone peaches and dried fruit for sale. Samuel Allen Wilcox was president and Herbert Van Dam secretary. These were my two grandfathers. The project was ill fated. The company was forced to disband and Mother went back to Utah and Father came to Gridley. Soon, however, Frank wrote to Ella's father and asked for her hand in marriage. Then sent a ticket for Gridley and they were married there. They lived first on what is now the Thresher Ranch east of town.

In 1910 the Wilcoxs decided to try again on the peach farm and went back to Vina. I (Marvella Wilcox Little) was born there. They finally gave up on that venture, returned to Gridley and bought forty five acres southwest of town on what is now Block road. Papa's brother, Joseph Orrin, bought the forty five acres adjoining on the north. Here my brother Elmo Lamar, Vivian Frank, and Virden Ray and my sister, Illa Mae, were born.

Another house was built west of Uncle Orrin's for Grandmother Wilcox and her then three unmarried children, Ada, Vera, and Lorin Elmo. This house was later moved to the property south of ours when my father's oldest brother Adrian, bought that. My parent's home is now owned by Gary and Sheryn Little.

Grandmother Wilcox died in 1913. After her death, our family moved to Napa. In 1915 Uncle Orrin died and his family moved back to Canada.

We then moved back to our home in Gridley and resumed farming operations. Papa was a school trustee for a number of years of West Liberty School. He was in the Sunday School Presidency and Mama taught Primary or Sunday School. For some years, they were MIA leaders. My father and mother were usually in the plays or operettas which were given once or twice a year.

He raised excellent crops of grain and alfalfa and we always had a few dairy cows. Later he raised wonderful grapes but there was no market for them and what we didn't eat he have away. He liked to do that anyway, giving away grapes, melons and corn. He enjoyed sharing. Papa died in my home 8 Oct. 1946 and Mama died May 10, 1970.



## ARTEMESIA [ARTIE] PRICE WILLIAMS

I was one of the Price girls - five of my family arrived in Gridley in March 1908 - Mother, Father, 4 girls and one boy. One girl was born in Gridley. My father and a few other men came to Gridley in late Jan. to look over the land which had been advertised as a good place to live. He bought a 80 acre ranch 5 miles west of Gridley and the first part of March he left on the train with a car load of furniture, machinery, and live stock. The family followed on the passenger train.

When we came out of the snow sheds of the Sierra Nev. mts. - into a beautiful sunshiny day - with fruit trees in bloom and oranges on the trees it was a sight a 10 year old never forgot.

The first I remember of the church was Sunday School in an old Opera House on Ohio St. and we came with a wagon and team and sometimes walked.

There was one very outstanding person that I'll always remember, Sister Barrows our Primary President. She was the grandmother of Bro. Papa. The programs she directed can never be equaled, but how we did practice. The Christmas Pageants were all inspiring- we had no colored lights - but by lighting pans of sulphur on each side of the stage gave colored lights and was something to be seen and never forgotten.

At one time later the Branch presented an operetta conducted by our choir leader George Cole and a member from Salt Lake. Those taking leading parts were - Lavawn Barrows and Sister Gattiker.

## THE JOSEPH C. WILLIAMS FAMILY

Joseph Charles Williams was born at Springville, Utah in 1865. The family moved to Goshen, then to Provo where Joseph played ball with Pres. Heber J. Grant. They moved with some friends to Chesterfield, Idaho, and took up land there. In 1901 the family moved to Riverside, Idaho, which was later known as Groveland.

Joseph married Fredrickie Christina Sorensen in Oct. 1888 in Logan, Utah. They had a large family of ten children with four boys and six girls. In 1912 they decided to move to Gridley to be with Fredrickie's father, Neils Sorenson. Most of the family came by train arriving Feb. 12th. Father and second son, Sherman arrived a little later with the cattle and household goods on the freight train. At this time the eldest son, Joseph Leo, was on a mission to the Northeastern States and arrive in Gridley a year later.

When the family first arrived, they could not find a house so they put up a large tent with a lumber floor. They soon bought the two-story home at Wilson and Jackson Streets which is now the District Office of the Gridley Schools.

The family was all put to work at once in the Gridley Branch of the church. J.C. was councilor to both George Tolley and E.O. Clark in the branch presidency and Fredrickie was Secretary of the Relief Society for many years. The girls went right to work in the YWMIA and Joseph Leo was active in the choir. All of the family held positions and this was helpful in the growth of the Gridley branch of the church.

## CANADIAN INFLUENCE

Did you ever wonder what brings Canadians to Gridley? the answer is simple - MISSIONARIES. A certain young man from Gridley, Merrill Orme, was called to the Eastern Canadian Mission in 1941. He ended up in Windsor, Ontario, where a certain young lady, Jean Morrison, lived. To make a long story short - in May 1943, Merrill returned to Windsor to claim Jean as his bride. Now Jean had a friend, Ruth Hawkeswood, who visited them in Biggs, in 1944 - she met a young farmer named Bill Carlin. She fell in love with Gridley and with Bill and decided Gridley was the place.

It wasn't too many years later that Calvin Fife went on a mission to western Canada, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, in particular - where he met a lovely young girl, Valeta, who later became his wife. Much later another Gridley missionary Melvin Dewsnap, went to Manitoba, Canada on his mission and met his bride, Leann Leishman. Her brother Dale came to visit, and he chose as his bride, Lynnette Barrow. Now the rest of the family has moved to Gridley.

## WELFARE

Sometime in the spring of 1936 local leaders went to April Conference where they heard all about the new Welfare Plan. Later in the summer there was a special meeting held in Sacramento at which Harold B. Lee outlined the new welfare plan for local leaders. All the brethren who attended came home with a determination to obey the commandment of the Lord to prepare as much as they were able for the welfare of the people of the Stake.

It was decided to try and put peaches up in Gridley Stake. But where? Bishop Randolph Fife told them they could use the facilities at



his home. They had a laundry room in connection with their garage. So during the peach season many people gathered to can peaches. Pres. John Todd had a large pressure cooker and the Fife's had one. The sisters pitted peaches in front of the garage in the evening and the brethren made a large bonfire to heat the water in a large vat or boiler in which they lye dipped the peaches that had been pitted. Then they were taken into the laundry and washed in laundry trays. There sisters placed them in the cans, others added syrup and Pres. Todd took care of the processing of the fruit. They worked until midnight.

Several of the cans blew up because of inexperience. They spent several nights canning and put up many cans of peaches. They had a great time.

The next year, they tried canning in the basement of the church and many cans were canned. The following year the cannery was built at the Social Hall site. There it remained for many years with wards coming from all over the stake to can their quota for the region. Local group canning was very popular and many groups canned their fruit. Dimon Stewart was in charge of the cannery for many years. Many good memories remain of the times when large groups would assemble to can.

Later a new cannery was built in Sacramento. It was much larger and the Gridley Wards were instrumental in showing the cannery people in Sacramento how to put up peaches.

In 1979 a new cannery and storehouse was built in Chico for our region. The welfare program has come a long way since its very humble beginning in Gridley. Our local Bishops Storehouse served the stake for a few years before it was abandoned and later became the Gridley Branch Genealogical Library.

### THE STODDARD FAMILY

The Stoddards came to Gridley from Medford, Oregon and settled in Gridley in Nov. 1927. The family consisted of the father, Asa Aaron Stoddard, wife Margaret and 5 children, Eugene, Mary, Aaron, Loren, and Harold (Bill).

They rented a small ranch southwest of Gridley where they spent the winter. The next spring they moved to a ranch northwest of Gridley where they raised peaches. The next year they moved to town.

In 1931 Mr. Stoddard built a home on the West Liberty Rd. and shortly after the house was completed he had a heart attack and died on Oct. 21, 1931.

Margaret remarried in 1936 to John Hay. She died in 1943. The children all attended Gridley schools and all graduated from Gridley High School. Eugene graduated in 1930 the Valedictorian of his class. They were all active in sports and music and played in the school orchestra and band. During high school and college the boys played in local dance bands. All the boys attended Chico State College.

Eugene was President of the student body in college. After graduation he returned to Gridley High School as a music teacher. He married Emily Gattiker and four children were born to them. He obtained his PHD in music and is currently teaching music in College at Hemet, Calif.

Mary graduated from high school in 1931, then worked for Penneys for several years. She also worked 22 years as a Social Worker in Yolo County. She married Eugene (Babe) Jones and two children were born to them. They currently reside in Woodland.

Aaron graduated from Chico State College, married Ruth Akins and one son was born to them. He became a music teacher in Kelseyville. He served in the armed forces in World War II and was killed Sept. 1944.

Loren graduated from college with a degree in Engineering. He served 20 years in the Air Force (14 months he was a prisoner of war of the Japanese). He married Helen Joe Fife and had 5 sons. He is a General Contractor and currently lives in Auburn where he is also the Bishop.

Harold (Bill) is a General Contractor and lived and worked around Gridley, Sacramento areas. He married Donna Jensen and 5 children were born to them. He lives in Reno, Nevada.

### THE ALFRED POLL WALTON FAMILY

The Walton family moved from Metropolis, Nevada to Gridley in 1935. The family consisted of Al and Zelma and their 6 children: Royden, Glenna, Arvil, Marvin, Richard and Verda. Shortly after arriving in Gridley, Al took a job on a farm north of Gridley. After a few years he was employed as a bus mechanic and driver for the Gridley High School. His work later also included custodial work. He was employed for the school for 20 years.



In 1958 Al and his son Royden became partners in a Shell Oil service station. Al died Aug. 7, 1967 and Zelma died July 18, 1978. They lived in the same home, 1225 Locust St. from their arrival in Gridley until their death. They loved the gospel and served in many capacities but their greatest love was serving on a Stake Mission together.

Their son Richard died in 1941. The other children all live in the area. Al and Zelma left a posterity of 20 grandchildren and 31 great grandchildren.

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(Note; this advertisement appeared in the Gridley Herald in 1912 and was circulated in Utah and Idaho as those Mormons knew all about irrigation.)

#### **THE JAMES MARLER FAMILY**

It was the 15th Nov. 1915 that the Marler family stepped off the train in Gridley. They were James (Bud), Bertha and 5 children: Violet, Fred, Olive, Earl and Modean, who was a baby.

They could hardly believe the beautiful warmth and beauty as they had left Lewisville, Idaho less than 2 days before in a cold snowstorm.

Fred and Violet had finished grade school so they worked. Fred delivered groceries for Uncle Bert Taylor's store. Later they both attended Gridley High School in the square shingle building.

Bud and Bertha had always been active members of the church so he told the Branch Pres. to put us to work. Bud was S.S. Superintendent and Bertha taught a class of 8 year olds for years. Violet helped Louise

Hansen with the youngest class. Violet later worked in Primary and MIA. She was MIA Secretary under Flossie Holmes Soeth. Maude Bramwell was President. Violet was later counselor to Katie Cameron and to Hazel Taylor at the time of her marriage.

Olive taught Sunday School and took part in entertainments in church and school. Fred and Earl were active in scouting and boy activities. Earl was a counselor in MIA.

The family was happy with their friends and the great climate and being together. Then the tragic flu epidemic took Bud from his family on Jan. 4, 1919. It broke our hearts but by working and cooperating we made it.

Violet worked for the Peerless Grocery. Later she married Lionel Holmes and moved to Sacramento and worked in the state offices.

Fred worked for Union Oil, married Hazel Scott of Gridley and moved to Klamath Falls. Died July 2, 1976.

Olive worked in Fink's Theater then went to Santa Clara College and taught school. She was married to Milan Losser of Gridley and moved to Oakland. Died Oct. 3, 1954.

Earl worked for Gordon Halk's, then Union Oil. He married Nora Scott of Gridley, moved to Mt. View and had a Ben Franklin Store.

Modean played in the school band, was S.S. Secretary and teacher and also worked in Primary. She married Jesse Hepworth and now lives in Yuba City.

Bertha made lovely quilts for her family. She was a Relief Society Coun. She supervised much welfare work of canning and quilting during the depression. She was a loving mother and a wonderful guide and councilor. She died of a stroke on Oct. 8, 1941.

#### **WILL AND JANE SCOTT**

Will was born in England and came to America when he was about twelve. Jane was born in Preston, Idaho.

Will and his brother Walter came to West Liberty in 1908 and built a house on the land Will had purchased. Then, Mom, Grandma and Hazel and Marg (both born in Preston) moved out to Calif. I was born on the ranch, also Gladys and Howard (died at age 8). We moved into town in 1919 and Dad worked for Libby McNeil until he retired.

Mom and Dad moved to Redding in 1958 and lived here until they passed away. Mom in 1967 and Dad in 1968. They had their 62nd anniversary just a month before Mom passed away.

Nora Scott Marler





Gridley Stake Gold and Green Ball 1950 Faith Gardner -Queen





Gridley Stake Viennese Waltz Group - Gold & Green Ball 1950  
Bottom Row - Harvey & Wanda Coe, Drex & Pearl Tolley; Middle Row - Noble & Buelah Hepworth,  
Wilbur & Beth Mills, Mary & Jess Chandler, Dawna Brink and Ira Jensen. Back Row - Omer &  
Betty Barrow, Marvis & Bob Fife.



## ***My Recollections of Gridley***



# ***My Personal History***



## ***Autographs & Addresses***



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# RECEIPT

Received of the \_\_\_\_\_  
 the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars  
 for \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \$10.00

for \_\_\_\_\_

\$1.00 shipping

Total \$11.00

For cash received from \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Cash \$11.00

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for \_\_\_\_\_

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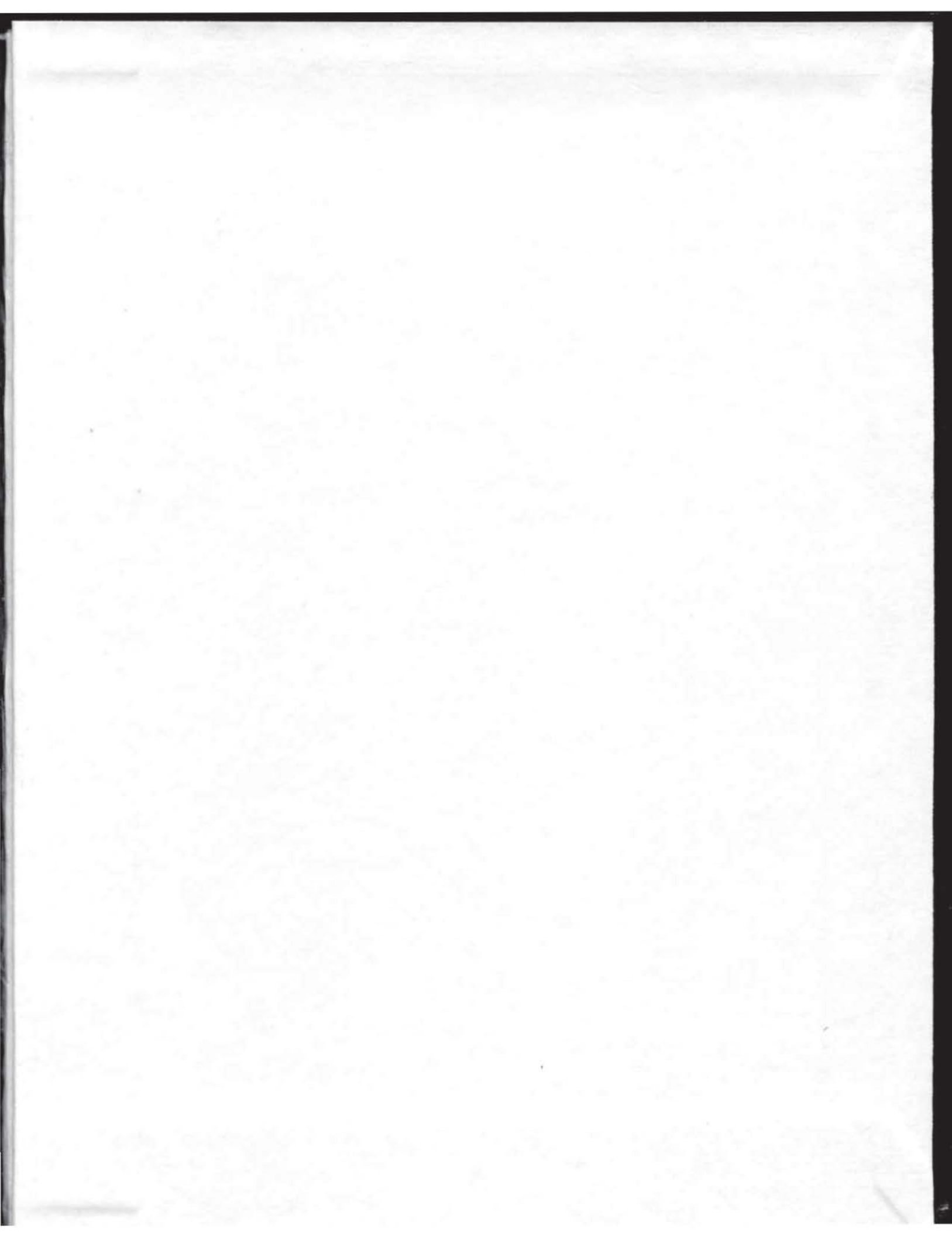


















History of the L. D. S. Church in the Gridley, California Area

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